New Parks North

An annual progress report on natural and cultural heritage initiatives in Northern Canada.

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Introduction

This annual newsletter provides brief status reports on projects concerning the establishment and development of new parks, related heritage areas and other conservation initiatives in northern Canada. Aboriginal land claims remain a key factor in the establishment of parks and other protected areas.

Within the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, approximately 18% of the land is conserved by national parks and managed in a co-operative manner by Parks Canada and agencies created under the *Inuvialuit Final Agreement (1984)* or otherwise by agreement with Inuvialuit.

The Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (1992) and the *Sahtu Dene and Metis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (1993)* address natural areas, wildlife and heritage conservation issues. *The Tłı̨cho Land Claims and Self-Government Agreement* received Royal Assent on February 5, 2005.

Government and the Dehcho First Nations have signed a Framework Agreement and an Interim Measures Agreement. These Agreements mark significant steps in the Dehcho Process toward negotiating a final agreement. The Northwest Territory Metis Nation is currently working with government toward an agreement-in-principal. Land claim and treaty land entitlement considerations for all areas where claims are not settled will strongly influence the timing of conservation proposals in those areas.

The *Yukon First Nations Umbrella Final Agreement (1993)* has led 11 to First Nation Final Agreements: Champagne and Aishihik, Vuntut Gwitchin, Na-Cho Nyak Dun, Teslin Tlingit Council, Little Salmon/ Carmacks, Selkirk, Tr'ondek Hwëch'in, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council, Kluane, Kwanlin Dün and Carcross/ Tagish. Three Yukon First Nation claims are outstanding.

The *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (1993)* provides a process for the establishment of national parks, territorial parks, and conservation areas in Nunavut. Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreements must be concluded for all existing territorial parks and for management

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Yukon, NWT and Nunavut Land Claim Settlement Regions

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* Overlap exists in claim areas

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plans for all existing parks and conservation areas.

Further information on land claim agreements may be found at the Indian and Northern Affairs Canada site at ***http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/pr/agr/index_e.html#ComprehensiveClaimsAgreements***.

New Parks North has been organized by claim area or settlement region. These areas are indicated on the map on the front page.

Judi Cozzetto, Editor

Aboriginal Land Claims

Editor's Note: The following article was compiled from several government sources and is updated yearly. It is included here to provide a brief introduction to Aboriginal land claims for persons not familiar with them.

A Brief Overview

In Canada, the courts have recognized the common law concept of Aboriginal rights and title. The existing Aboriginal and treaty rights of Aboriginal people have also been recognized and affirmed under section 35 (1) of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

The evolution and development of the federal government's land claims policy has been closely linked to court decisions. The first claims policy statement in 1973 was initiated by a decision of the Supreme Court of Canada (the 1973 *Calder* decision), which acknowledged the existence of Aboriginal title in Canadian law. The Supreme Court's 1990 *Sparrow* decision clarified that these rights are subject to Constitutional protection, and the Court's decisions in *Delgamuukw* (1997) and *Bernard and Marshall* (2005) have articulated the nature of the property right arising from Aboriginal title.

In order to address uncertainties created by the Court's decisions, the federal government announced its intention in 1973 to negotiate claim settlements. As the policy developed, claims were divided into two types:

- comprehensive claims – based on the concept of continuing Aboriginal rights and title that have not been dealt with by treaty or other legal means; and
- specific claims – arising from alleged non-fulfillment of Indian treaties and other lawful obligations, or the improper administration of lands and other assets under the *Indian Act* or formal agreements.

In recent years, an unnamed third category of claims has developed to deal with Aboriginal grievances that fall within the spirit of the comprehensive and specific claims policies, but do not meet strict acceptance criteria.

Comprehensive Claims

The primary purpose of comprehensive claims settlements is to conclude agreements with Aboriginal groups that will resolve the legal ambiguities associated with the common law concept of Aboriginal rights. The objective is to negotiate modern treaties that provide clear, certain, and long-lasting definition of rights to lands and resources.

Negotiated comprehensive claim settlements provide for certainty for governments and third parties in exchange for a clearly defined package of rights and benefits for the Aboriginal beneficiaries codified in constitutionally protected settlement agreements. Comprehensive claim agreements define a wide range of rights and benefits to be exercised and enjoyed by claimant groups. These may include full ownership of certain lands, guaranteed wildlife harvesting rights, participation in land and resource management throughout the settlement area, financial transfers, resource revenue sharing and economic development measures.

If a national park is established in a settlement area through the claim process, the claimant group continues to exercise its traditional harvesting activities within this protected area. As well, a management board may be established, with representation from the Aboriginal community and government, to advise the Minister on the management of the national park. Finally, the land claim agreement sets out what economic opportunities associated with the national park will be enjoyed by the claimant group. These may include employment provisions and contracting opportunities.

Significant amendments to the federal comprehensive claims policy were announced in December 1986, following an extensive period of consultation with Aboriginal people. Key changes to the policy included the development of alternatives to blanket extinguishment of Aboriginal rights as well as provision for the inclusion in settlement agreements of offshore harvesting rights, resource revenue sharing and Aboriginal participation in environmental decision-making. The 1986 policy also provides for the establishment of interim measures to protect Aboriginal interests during negotiations, and the negotiation of implementation plans to accompany final agreements.

Aboriginal rights in 40% of Canada (primarily Ontario and the Prairies) were addressed through the negotiation of historic (pre-1920s) treaties. Twenty-one modern treaties have been negotiated since 1975 addressing Aboriginal land rights to an additional 40% of the country (mainly in northern Quebec, Labrador and the Territories). Aboriginal claims have not yet been resolved in approximately 20% of Canada, including the Maritimes, most of

British Columbia, portions of Quebec, Labrador and Ontario, and parts of the Territories.

Self-government negotiations may take place parallel to, or at the same table as, the comprehensive claims negotiations. The federal government is prepared to consider constitutional protection of certain aspects of self-government where the parties to the agreement concur. Self-government must be negotiated in keeping with the 1995 *Framework for the Implementation of the Inherent Right and the Negotiations of Self-Government* policy.

Specific Claims and Treaty Land Entitlement

Specific claims relate to the fulfillment of treaties and to the federal government's administration of Indian reserve lands, band funds and other assets. The government's primary objective with respect to specific claims is to discharge its lawful obligations to First Nations.

Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) is a large category of claims that relate primarily to a group of treaties that were signed with First Nations, mainly in the prairie provinces. Not all these First Nations received the full amount of land promised. Claims from First Nations for outstanding entitlements are categorized as TLE claims and are handled separately from other specific claims.

Other Claims

The federal government is reaching or negotiating settlement of a number of other Aboriginal grievances, which have sometimes been referred to as claims of a third kind. These grievances fall within the spirit of the comprehensive and specific claims policies, but do not meet strict acceptance criteria.

Dehcho

After the failure of the *Dene and Metis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement* in 1990, the Dehcho First Nations (DFN) requested the establishment of a Dehcho Territory and their own process to deal with the Crown. The Dehcho Process addresses governance, lands and resources negotiations among federal and territorial governments and the DFN. Negotiations have resulted in a Framework Agreement and an Interim Measures Agreement.

The Framework Agreement sets out the scope, process, topics and parameters for negotiation of an agreement-in-principle and a final agreement. The Interim Measures Agreement provides for participation of the DFN in the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management regime; a regional land use planning process that will facilitate conservation and resource development; an interim management arrangement for Nahanni National Park Reserve of Canada; and interim land withdrawals and the negotiation of a resource development agreement.

Northwest Territory Métis Nation

In 2002, this group, formally known as the South Slave Metis Tribal Council, changed its name to the Northwest Territory Metis Nation. When the *Dene and Metis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement* failed to be ratified by a majority of the Aboriginal people of the Mackenzie Valley in 1990, the federal government decided to enter into regional claims in this part of the NWT. However, in the South Slave District, the Akaitcho Treaty 8 Dene opted to seek fulfillment of their treaty land entitlements rather than enter into a regional comprehensive land claim. This left some Metis in the area without a vehicle to press for their concerns.

The then Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada offered to enter into a non-rights based process with the Metis of the South Slave District to deal with their concerns. A Framework Agreement was signed in August 1996 that outlines a two-stage negotiation process – land and resources and, after the signing of an agreement-in-principle, negotiation of self-government issues. In 2006 the Main Table reached agreement on 62 key outstanding issues, clearing the way for the drafting and review process for chapters of the Agreement-in-Principle.

Akaitcho Treaty 8

In 2000, negotiations began between government and the approximately 2,000 Akaitcho Treaty 8 Dene who assert traditional use of lands primarily south and east of Great Slave Lake, and north-easterly as far as the Nunavut boundary. After a break in 2002, negotiations resumed in January 2003, with emphasis on lands and governance issues and are progressing. In November 2007, Canada announced a major interim land withdrawal to temporarily protect 62,000 km^2 of land while negotiations continue, plus another withdrawal of 26,118 km^2 to allow the parties to determine whether to establish a new national park reserve in the area of the East Arm of Great Slave Lake and east and north of there. (Also see article on page 13.)

Nunavut

Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment –
Nunavut Parks and Special Places

Nunavut Parks and Special Places – Program Development

Nunavut Parks and Special Places continues to redefine its core tools, including the development of a new Nunavut Parks and Special Places Program, a revised *Territorial Parks Act and Regulations* to reflect the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA)* and the nature of parks in Nunavut, and a review of the Territorial Parks System Plan in keeping with program changes. Changes to program and legislation

were identified in a legislative review of the *Nunavut Territorial Parks Act* which considered "best practices" from other jurisdictions; classifications, management and zoning systems; legislative gaps related to *NLCA* and the Umbrella Inuit Impact and Benefits Agreement (IIBA) for Territorial Parks; and national and international commitments that may need to be addressed through a revised *Parks Act*.

In keeping with the IIBA, Nunavut Parks has also initiated the development of new frameworks for park management plans, master plans and inventories of park resources.

A New www.nunavutparks.com

In April 2007, the Minister for the Department of Environment launched a new marketing and promotional initiative for Nunavut Parks and Special Places as part of its Heritage Appreciation Strategy. The launch brands Nunavut's Parks and Special Places around Katjaqnaaq:

"Katjaqnaaq", as much a feeling as an expression, reveals a depth of emotion and connection to a place of incredible beauty and significance. Uttered as a sign, it can mean, "Ah – I am happy here, I am part of something." As a joyful exclamation, it can mean "Oh, what a beautiful place!" However it is used, it evokes connectedness to one's surroundings and a sense of peace and meaning.

The goal of the program is to increase knowledge of, and provide educational and interpretation information about the cultural and natural history and value of Nunavut's Territorial Parks and Special Places; promote Nunavut's parks and special places for active, healthy lifestyles; and increase public education, enjoyment and recreation. As part of this campaign, Nunavut Parks redeveloped ***www.nunavutparks.com*** to include more visitor information on Nunavut's Territorial Parks. New changes in 2008 will include a visitor's gallery, e-newsletters and more interactivity between park and website visitors.

An Umbrella Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement for Territorial Parks

The 1993 *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* (*NLCA*) changed the role of government in the protection of the environment for Nunavut. This *Agreement* recognizes the value and desirability of parks and conservation areas, and further defines an approach to the establishment of protected areas within Nunavut – including meaningful community involvement, management, and impact and benefit measures related to protected areas.

As part of these *NLCA* obligations, the Government of Nunavut (represented by the then Department of Sustainable Development), Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., and each of the three Regional Inuit Associations negotiated an Umbrella Inuit Impact and Benefits Agreement (IIBA) for Territorial Parks in 2002. The IIBA assists in the development of Inuit tourism opportunities and benefits associated with parks by providing training and economic opportunities, and establishing a process toward the joint management and planning of the lands and resources in existing and future territorial parks. The establishment of co-management structures are instrumental in the development of the Nunavut Parks Program. Focus is now on implementing the IIBA and continuing negotiations with the federal government to fund the implementation of the IIBA's 17 Articles.

Territorial Park Feasibility Studies and Related Projects

In 2001, the then Minister of Sustainable Development (now Department of Environment (DoE)) initiated attraction development projects in three non-decentralized communities as a means of enhancing tourism and related economic development, taking into consideration existing land use plans, and community and regional economic development plans. The development of these projects includes an interpretive signage program in Hall Beach related to the Fox Main Dew Line site, a parks and attraction development study in Kugaaruk, and preliminary studies in Clyde River and Coral Harbour. DoE continues to work with communities on park feasibility studies for the areas of Kugaaruk and Clyde River, and Fossil Creek in Coral Harbour.

Clyde River Feasibility Study

Clyde River sits in the midst of a spectacular fiord landscape, on the east coast of Baffin Island, NU. Each fiord has its own unique sculpted rock walls with dramatic formations, such as the monumental cliffs at the junction of Sam Ford Fiord and Walker Arm or the high vertical cliffs of the meandering China Wall. The area around Clyde River includes open-ocean, deep inlets, icebergs, sheer mountain walls, glaciers, rivers, valleys and tundra. Wildlife in the area includes polar bears, seals, narwhal, bowhead whales, caribou, arctic fox and hares, and numerous species of birds. The rolling hills of the Barnes Plateau, found at the end of the fiords, are important caribou hunting grounds today just as they were for the families that lived in the fiords years ago.

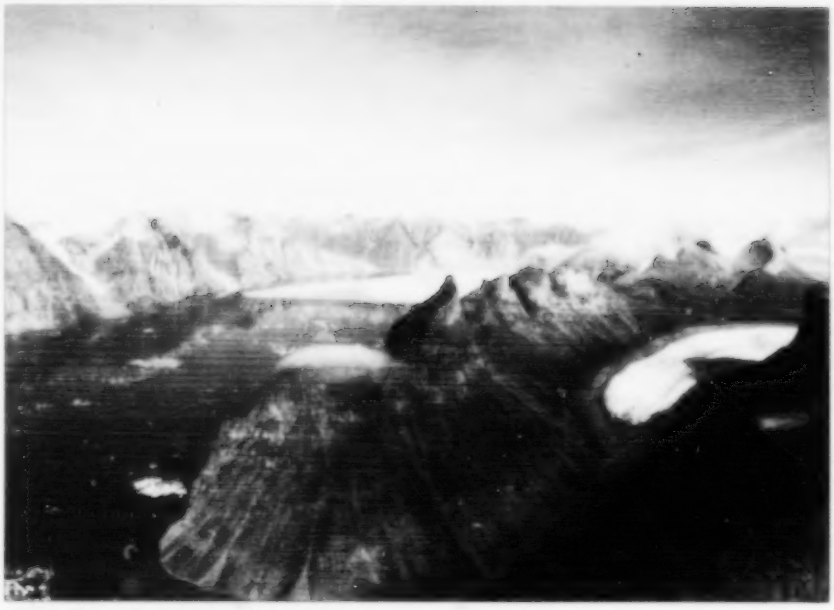
A core advisory committee, including the Department of Environment (DoE) and representatives of the Clyde River Hunters and Trappers Organization, Hamlet Council, Community Lands and Resources Committee, Elders and Youth Councils, has been actively working toward park development since 2001.

Following a series of studies and research, the boundaries of the proposed park study area were recommended in 2006 ensuring that the area's significant cultural, natural and archaeological resources and habitats were protected, yet allowing for maximum tourism and economic development potential.

A cultural landscape planning study for the area was completed in 2007. The study included the collection of existing cultural heritage resource knowledge materials and the identification of the related categories. Gaps in these areas were defined and a strategy to facilitate a comprehensive cultural heritage resource inventory was recommended. Based primarily on interviews with

Elders and residents knowledgeable about the area, this study will be used as a framework for overall park resource inventories for all territorial parks as required in the Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement (IIBA). The notion of "cultural landscapes" will also be used as a basis for park programming, legislation and system planning.

DoE continues to work with the Qikiqtani Inuit Association toward park planning and establishment in keeping with the processes set out to in the IIBA. Only with a full understanding of the important resources in the area can appropriate boundaries be defined to maximize conservation, recreation and tourism without impacting or denying other equally valid land uses.



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Clyde River feasibility study area

Coral Harbour – Fossil Creek Trail/Alijivik

The Department of Environment (DoE) and the community of Coral Harbour have identified the historic site of Alijivik as a preferred area for a territorial park. Alijivik is located on Inuit Owned Lands (IOL), which are managed by the Kivalliq Inuit Association (KIA), and as such would require agreements between DoE and KIA, and the Hamlet and KIA for the development of a territorial park on IOL. Until these agreements are in place, DoE is not able to advance the Alijivik proposal.

In the interim, DoE developed an interpretive trail program at Fossil Creek, which is renowned for its high concentration of exposed fossils. In consultation with the community, the Fossil Creek Trail project included research on the natural history of the area, fieldwork to visit and inventory the natural features of the site, and a community open house to present the fieldwork and research findings. Signage design was completed in 2007, with fabrication and installation proposed for 2008. A new brochure and airport signage is included in the project.

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Alijivik limestone cache

Gjoa Haven – Northwest Passage Trail

In 1993/94, the Northwest Passage Territorial Trail was developed to showcase the search for the Northwest Passage and to increase the tourism potential of Gjoa Haven. The trail is self-guided with interpretive stops at points of historical interest throughout the community, telling the story of the many failed, and the one successful expedition of Roald Amundsen through the Northwest Passage.

In 2005, Nunavut Parks initiated the review and upgrade of its interpretive signage and trail. New research and consultations were undertaken within the community to give structure and direction to the development of a new interpretive program, along with trail

inventory and assessment. New signage was completed in 2007 and will be installed on site in summer 2008.

Kugaaruk Territorial Park Feasibility Study

Based on the recommendations of a 2001 study, the Department of Environment initiated a feasibility study for park development in Kugaaruk in 2005 aimed at protecting and preserving the natural and cultural heritage of the area, and enhancing the opportunities for recreation, tourism and economic development. As a result of community consultations, the study area was expanded to focus on a larger area around Pelly Bay. This was done to take further advantage of greater park opportunities outside of Kugaaruk, including coastal areas, hiking and camping, physiography, wildlife, vegetation and cultural heritage. The project also included additional consultations on park development for Kugaaruk, resulting in five potential sites being identified. Additional fieldwork and community consultations will now be undertaken to confirm park boundaries, including the consideration of lands that have been claimed for prospecting or mineral development, completing the park master plans for the selected area, and beginning initial park development.

Existing Territorial Parks

Iqalugaarjuup Nunanga Territorial Park

Just inland from the west coast of Hudson Bay, about eight kilometres northwest of the community of Rankin Inlet, lies Iqalugaarjuup Nunanga ("the land around the river of little fishes") Territorial Park. In summer and fall, visitors and residents enjoy the spectacular scenery, fishing, swimming, berry picking and viewing of the abundant wildlife, including the peregrine falcon. The most outstanding feature is the historic site Qamaviniqtalik ("place of ancient sod houses") and its interpretive walking trail located on the flood plains of the Meliadine River. The numerous archaeological features at Qamaviniqtalik are representative of the transition from the Thule culture to the historic Caribou Inuit culture.

As a result of ongoing park development, visitation has been steadily increasing since 2003. The park is also used by the community as a staging area for activities during cruise ship visits and for other special events. A new interpretive program, trails, and signage will be unveiled in the spring/summer 2008. Future plans include the development of hiking/interpretive trails.

Katannilik Territorial Park

Katannilik ("the place of waterfalls"), in south Baffin near Kimmirut, is an area of approximately 1,270 km^2, almost all of it in the Soper River watershed – a Canadian Heritage River. The park provides opportunities for water-based recreation including rafting, canoeing and kayaking, as well as hiking, cross-country skiing, dog sledding and snowmobiling. Cultural events are organized annually for visitors and cruise ship passengers travelling to the park, resulting in increased economic impacts for arts and crafts, home-stay programs, and community events. The Soper House, home of the 1930s explorer and biologist Dewey Soper, now serves as the Soper House

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Katannilik Territorial Park

Gallery where soapstone carvings, jewellery made from local stone, and handicrafts are for sale through the Quliruakut Society.

Katannilik Park staff continue to host annual summer science camps where the students learn about wildlife and plant ecology, traditional use of rocks and minerals, navigation using rocks/stars, and safe boating skills on a river. Nunavut Parks supported the second ever dogsled race to run from Iqaluit to Kimmirut through the park. Held in March 2008, the event is expected to grow and entice competitors from around Nunavut and elsewhere in Canada.

Department of Environment has developed the Taqaiqsirvik Campground in Kimmirut to support Katannilik Park and the trails through the area, and has constructed an emergency shelter and boathouse at Soper Falls for visitor safety and to assist in monitoring activities within the park. Itijjagiaq Trail and Soper Canadian Heritage River guidebooks were redesigned in 2007 as a map-based product to be more useful to park and river visitors. The new "guidemaps" will be available in 2008 for visitors to the park.

Kekerten Territorial Park

Kekerten Territorial Park, located 50 km from Pangnirtung within Cumberland Sound, was a highly used Scottish Whaling Station during the 1850s and 1860s. A number of whaling station artefacts remain, including the 1857 foundations of three storehouses, large cast-iron pots, and restored tent frames and rings.

The Government of Nunavut and the community of Pangnirtung have been working to increase the interpretive potential of the site to include the relationship of Inuit with the whalers. A metal structure, located around the former station's foundations, will be a "skeleton" of the Scottish whaling station. Construction is expected to begin in the summer of 2008.

A new interpretive program, "guidemap" and signage are also being developed for the site in support of local outfitters providing tours to the park, the increasing cruise ship visitation to the island, and student programs held in the territorial park.

Nunavut's First Yurt in Katannilik Territorial Park

During the spring and summer of 2008, Nunavut Parks will build a yurt (a traditional Mongolian tent) at Livingstone Falls in Katannilik Park. The Livingstone Falls area was identified in the park master plan as an activity area for potential recreational development. Most park facilities are located on the eastern side of the river in support of hikers; the yurt will be on the west side and accessible for river travellers. It may also be used as a base for summer science camps, outdoor leadership schools, local guiding and outfitting, and other activities. This may encourage hiking up the Livingstone River, potentially reducing impacts on the primary Soper River route. Popular attractions in parks throughout Canada, this will be the first yurt in Nunavut, specially designed to withstand the harsher climate and weather conditions.

Kugluk (Bloody Falls) Territorial Park/Coppermine River

Kugluk (Bloody Falls) Territorial Park is located 15 km southwest of the community of Kugluktuk, around Bloody Falls on the lower Coppermine River. The focal point of the park is the falls, where the rock and cliffs force the river into a boiling, rushing torrent. Above and below, where the river widens, the rugged tundra climbs up from the river to the surrounding hills and plateaus. Winter ice breaks up and floods the land around the falls. In summer, the land is covered by lush tundra vegetation including an impressive show of wildflowers.

The park contains remnants of Thule winter houses used more than 500 years ago, archaeological evidence of caribou hunting camps of more than 1,500 years ago, Pre-Dorset use of the site more than 3,500 years ago and a rich history of Arctic exploration. Bloody Falls was declared a national historic site in 1978 because of its 4,000 year history of occupation which includes, perhaps, the most famous battle of the north.

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Kugluk Territorial Park

Coppermine River Management Plan Initiated

The Coppermine River was nominated as a Canadian Heritage River in 2002. It flows over 450 km of the Canadian Shield, from its source at Lac de Gras, north of Great Slave Lake, NWT, into the Arctic Ocean at Kugluktuk, NU. Names like Bloody Falls, Muskox Rapids and Rocky Defile tell of the river's turbulent rapids and times past, and foreshadow adventure for river travelers of today.

It was stories of copper deposits that brought Samuel Hearne, the first European to see the river, in 1771. Hearne's account of his overland journey to the river, and the massacre he witnessed at Bloody Falls, brought the Coppermine into the history books. The copper deposits were important to the first peoples who lived there and many important archaeological sites, distinguished by copper artefacts, are found along the river. Caribou, muskox, seal, arctic charr and the river's other resources support the traditional subsistence lifestyle of the Inuit and Dene and their ancestors. The land is essentially unchanged since the first European explorers saw it over two centuries ago.

In keeping with the Canadian Heritage Rivers Inuit Impact and Benefits Agreement negotiations related to the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*, a management plan is being developed with the involvement of the community, the Kitikmeot Inuit Association, and the Department of Environment. It is expected that the plan will be presented to the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board at their spring 2008 meeting.

Local use of the area for camping and fishing reflects the traditional use of the site. The park is a convenient place to camp for canoeing and rafting parties descending the Coppermine River, and a newly constructed portage trail provides an easy traverse around the rapids. In 2008, Nunavut Parks will begin redeveloping trails, parking areas, other visitor services, and safety facilities in keeping with the 2006/07 Trail Development Study. The study was undertaken in response to use impacts on slopes and embankments in the park and related concerns for visitor safety, and as a means of directing visitor use to existing camping and day use areas.

Mallikjuaq Territorial Park

Mallikjuaq ("big wave") is an appropriate name for an island where rounded rock hills and low tundra valleys resemble giant rolling waves. Mallikjuaq Territorial Park, a 45-minute walk from Cape Dorset, showcases archaeological sites and stone structures dating back over three millennia.

Future work will include the construction of interpretive panels and boardwalks at some of the key locations in the park, and a landing area for cruise ships and other visitors. These projects will expand the amount of interpretation currently available, and protect the land and archaeological sites from further deterioration caused as a result of the increasing number of visitors to the park in recent years.

Ovayok Territorial Park

Ovayok, or Mount Pelly, is the name used to describe the large esker that dominates the landscape within this territorial park located 15 km east of the community of Cambridge Bay. According to the local legend of Ovayok, the three esker mountains were once a family of giants who died of starvation while walking across Victoria Island in search of food. Visitors can explore the legend and the rich cultural history associated with Ovayok as they hike through the park, whether they choose a day trip or to camp for several days. A half-day hike to the summit of Ovayok reveals spectacular views of the surrounding landscape, the raised beaches of the mountain, and possible sightings of muskoxen, peregrine falcons or arctic hare. Renowned for its diversity and numbers of Arctic birds, many bird watchers from around the world are attracted here by the opportunity to add to their life lists.

An interpretive plan was completed for the park in 2005, followed by a park brochure, guidebook and the identification of hiking routes through the park in 2006. In 2007, new interpretive signs and trail markers were installed to support local outfitters providing tours to the park by increasing the interpretive potential of the site.

Sylvia Grinnell and Qaummaarviit Territorial Parks

Located one kilometre from the heart of Nunavut's capital, Iqaluit, Sylvia Grinnell Territorial Park provides an opportunity for many visitors and residents to easily access an Arctic landscape. The park provides visitors with a chance to see a variety of Arctic plants, mammals and birds. Cultural heritage in the park includes traditional fishing sites at the Sylvia Grinnell River rapids, stone cairns and Thule ruins.

As a result of increased year-round use and related impacts, the Department of Environment continues to work on trail and area use development in Sylvia Grinnell. The design and development of a new interpretive program, including a brochure, interpretive signs and trail markers, was completed in 2006/07.

Funding and support for the redesign and construction of a bridge across the Sylvia Grinnell River, linking Sylvia Grinnell and Qaummaarviit Territorial Parks and providing visitors to Iqaluit with an accessible wilderness experience, was finalized in February 2008. Bridge development should take place over the next two years, during which time Nunavut Parks will develop a new park management plan and revisit the master plan to ensure the expanded park continues to protect the more than 30 significant archaeological, cultural and historic sites, and important vegetation (including the Woodsia Fern – one of the rarest plants in Canada) of the area.

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Sylvia Grinnell Territorial Park

Campgrounds

Campgrounds are important elements in the Nunavut Territorial Parks Program, providing services for park visitors and local communities. Community involvement in planning and development includes the selection of campground sites, type and number of facilities, as well as identification of campground names. Nunavut Parks began the process of re-developing existing campgrounds and establishing and developing new campgrounds in 2002.

Since then, the Department of Environment has initiated upgrades to Inuujaarvik Territorial Park Campground in Baker Lake, and relocated and installed new facilities at Pisuktinu Tunngavik Territorial Park Campground in Pangnirtung. The new Taqaiqsirvik Territorial Park Campground in Kimmirut was completed in 2004. Redevelopment of the old Qilaluqat Territorial Park Campground in Pond Inlet included the construction of new facilities in an area south of the community near Salmon Creek, and is now known as Tamaarvik. Tupirvik Territorial Park Campground in Resolute Bay was completed in 2007. In 2008, new or updated entrance signage will be installed to identify the campground locations.

Government of Canada – Parks Canada Agency

Auyuittuq National Park of Canada

Elders, archaeologists, a surveyor and park staff visited the Mikkattalik Site on North Pangnirtung Fiord in late July 2007 to record its features and to learn about living in qammaiit. Elders from Pangnirtung were generous in sharing their information. Their joy and deep contentment in returning to the land were evident even in the fog and chilly weather.

The site is so named because a man named Makkak is said to be buried there but no traces of this grave were encountered.

The archaeologists photographed and described the site's many features including tent rings, caches, qammaiit, igaviit (hearths) and puppy pens. Artifacts on the ground surface were also recorded and left in place. The features and artifacts will be monitored to ensure that they are not being disturbed by contemporary campers, as requested by the Elders of the Innamariit Piqqusingit and Saputiit Societies.

Quttinirpaaq National Park of Canada

Fort Conger, Discovery Harbour

On the western coast of northern Ellesmere Island sits Discovery Harbour, used by Inughuit hunters from Greenland and by British, American and Canadian expeditions since the last quarter of the 19th century. In 1875/76 the harbour served as the winter quarters for the British expedition *H.M.S. Discovery* and then became the American meteorological base for the first International Polar Year of 1881/82. The expedition's scientific work was successful but the failure to resupply resulted in the starvation of all but six of the 25-man party. A large house, Fort Conger, and observatories were constructed at the entrance to Discovery Harbour which were later dismantled and reconfigured into three small huts by Robert Peary in 1899 to serve as a base on his quest for the geographic North Pole.

In addition to numerous artifacts and structural ruins, Fort Conger includes inorganic contaminants such as arsenic trioxide, mercury, lead, copper and zinc. Samplings at the site over the last four summers have determined that these contaminants pose human, terrestrial and potential marine health risks. Remediation and removal of two small mounds of arsenic trioxide and the surrounding soil, in July 2007, revealed several Thule artifacts that may have been originally collected at Lake Hazen. These will be decontaminated and curated at Parks Canada's Service Centre in Winnipeg.

Archaeologists also monitored and photographed the extant remains of Fort Conger; monitored bank erosion, as some of the historic structures are less than five metres from the ocean bank; and discussed options for remediating the site's

contamination while maintaining its historic integrity. A working group will guide the decision-making process on how to best deal with the severe contamination at Fort Conger – ultimately protecting the fragile arctic ecosystems and irrevocably altering its historic resources.

Kettle Lake, Tanquary Fiord

On the east end of Tanquary Fiord, nestled between mountains, plateaux and drumlins, is a small kettle lake. The earliest Arctic nomads camped around its shores 4,000 years ago. Called Palaeo-Eskimos of the Independence I culture by archaeologists, these hunters lived in this polar desert when temperatures were slightly warmer than today, although winters were as cold and dark as at present. A Danish archaeologist excavated 23 dwelling ruins around Kettle Lake in 1965 and recovered 84 small stone tools such as burins, arrow points, needles and microblades. These features and artifacts tell a story of how, four millennia ago, people survived in this marginal region for 300 years by living in small skin tents, hunting muskoxen and caribou, and burning muskox dung, willow and heather for fuel.

After the Palaeo-Eskimos left Kettle Lake, it remained uninhabited until Thule people with more complex hunting and survival technologies arrived. Several fox traps and meat caches near Kettle Lake are evidence of the Thule presence.

© Parks Canada Agency 2007

Catriona Johnson, Environmental Sciences Group, collects root samples for contaminant analysis at Fort Conger with Peary's huts in the background

For one week in July, archaeological sites were monitored around Kettle Lake. Several Independence I artifacts on the surface of one site were located and guided interpretive tours options were discussed. One idea was to recreate the imprint of an unexcavated Independence I dwelling and include replicas of archaeological artifacts.

© Parks Canada Agency 2007

Fox trap at Tanquary Fiord, near Kettle Lake

Ukkusiksalik National Park of Canada

The Inuit Impact Benefit Agreement (IIBA) for Ukkusiksalik National Park of Canada was signed on 23 August 2003. As set out in the IIBA, Parks Canada established an office in Repulse Bay, NU, located on the Arctic Circle – the closest community in proximity to the park. There are currently three full time staff working with the Ukkusiksalik Park Management Committee, Parks Canada staff in the Nunavut Field Unit and other government departments.

Archaeological Field Work 2007

In August 2007 a helicopter survey to re-locate and record sites was conducted in the park. As the third year of a three-year project, the objective was to record selected sites at the mouth of Wager Bay and on Roes Welcome Sound. Previous work concentrated on Ford and Brown lakes at the western end of Wager Bay and on the main body of the bay.

Eight sites located at Berthie Harbour, Cape Dobbs and the Qaurnak River were recorded and photographed in some detail. Rock features such as tent rings, qammaiit and qayaq rests

predominated. Two semi-subterranean Thule winter houses were unusual in that they were located inland on the Qaurnak River at the western end of Wager Bay. Very few artifacts were seen. However, an ulu handle with a copper or brass shaft and wooden grip was collected from a pond on site at Douglas Harbour to protect it from deterioration.

© Paula K. Hughson, Parks Canada Agency 2007

View of Wager Bay

Progress has halted on the establishment of any further protected areas in Nunavut as a result of the following resolution, passed during the Annual General Meeting of Nunavut Tuungavik Incorporated in November 2007.

Resolution #: A07-11-1 Protected Areas IIBAs

WHEREAS the Designated Inuit Organizations and the Government of Canada completed an IIBA for National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries in Nunavut (the IIBA) in 2006; and

WHEREAS the IIBA was substantially completed in December 2004, but its completion has been delayed by the Government of Canada since that time; and

WHEREAS, since the IIBAs' completion in 2006, the Government of Canada has refused to provide the agreed-upon funding to implement the IIBA; and

WHEREAS Inuit have a right under the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* to IIBAs for all existing and proposed protected areas in Nunvaut; and

WHEREAS the DIOs have spend a considerable amount of time and resources, not yet reimbursed by the Government of Canada, on the negotiated and unfunded IIBA.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. the Government's failure to honour its obligations under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement respecting the IIBA is unacceptable to the members;
2. the members recommend that the DIOs demand reimbursement of negotiating expenses, and consider not expending additional monies negotiating IIBAs until the Government fulfills the above obligations; and
3. the members recommend that the DIOs not support the establishment of any further protected areas in Nunavut until the Government of Canada fulfills its obligations to Inuit respecting the above IIBA.

Dehcho

Government of Canada – Parks Canada Agency

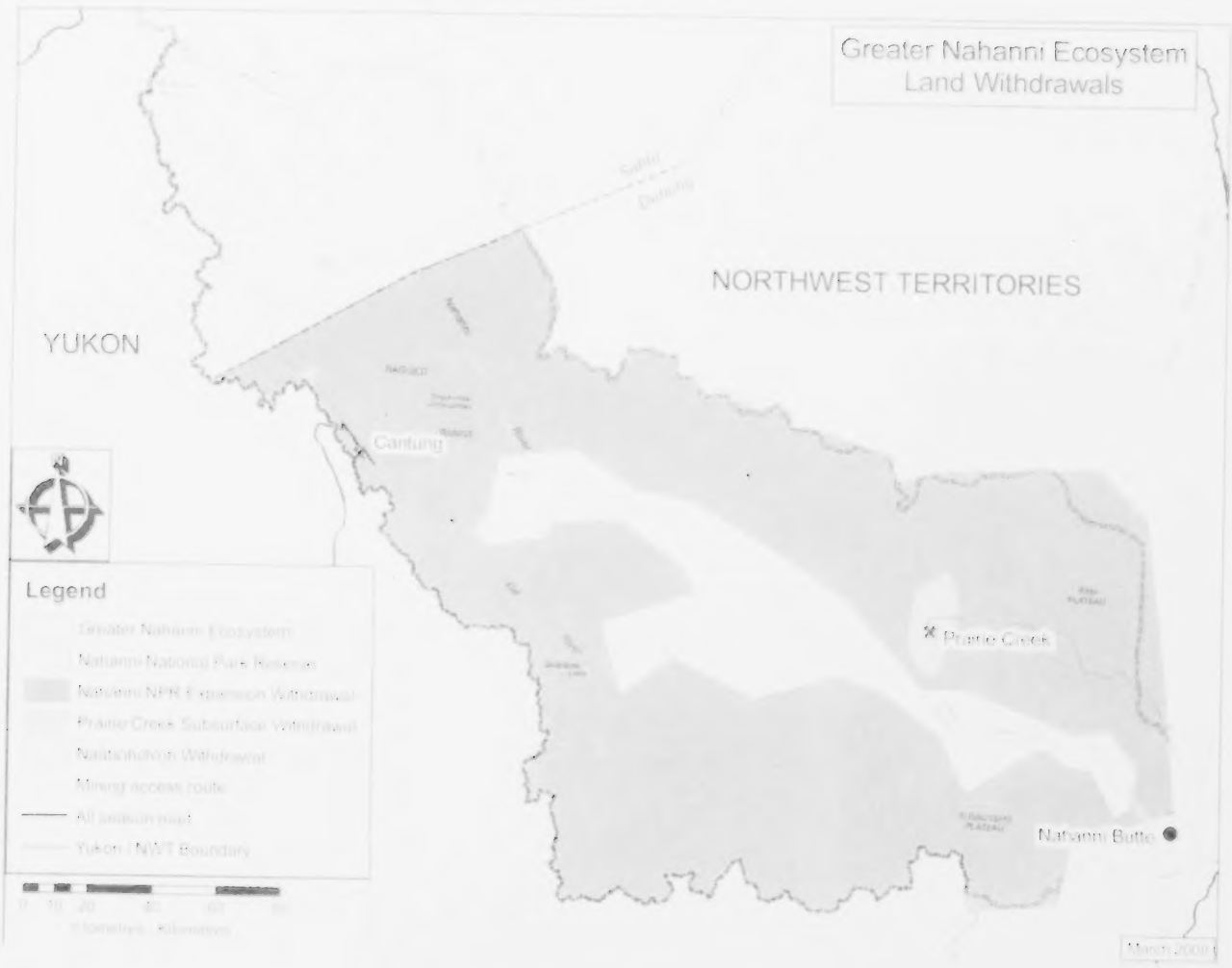
Nahanni National Park Reserve of Canada

Parks Canada Agency (PCA) continues to work for the enhanced protection of the Greater Nahanni Ecosystem (GNE) through separate initiatives in the Sahtu Settlement Area and in the Dehcho Region (also see article on page 12). Within the Dehcho, the Nahanni Expansion Working Group (NEWG) continues to guide the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between PCA and the Dehcho First Nations (DFN) to expand Nahanni National Park Reserve of Canada.

In 2007, several important achievements were realized.

1. In August 2007, the Prime Minister and the Minister of the Environment and Minister responsible for Parks Canada were in Fort Simpson, NWT to announce that lands had been set aside through an interim land withdrawal order to protect the Dehcho portion of the GNE.
2. PCA and NEWG held a series of open houses and meetings to consult with the public and stakeholders through October and November 2007. The results of the feasibility studies, including the Mineral and Energy Resource Assessment (MERA), were presented and comments were invited on three boundary options.
3. The Geological Survey of Canada (GSC) completed phase II of the MERA report. The GSC Open File was published in November 2007 and is available on the Natural Resources Canada web site ***http://geopub.nrcan.gc.ca/moreinfo_e.php?id=224425***.
4. Following the consultations, and as part of the MOU to work co-operatively to expand the park reserve, NEWG presented a recommended boundary to PCA and DFN.

It is expected that a decision will be made on a new boundary for Nahanni National Park Reserve in 2008/early 2009.



Sahtu

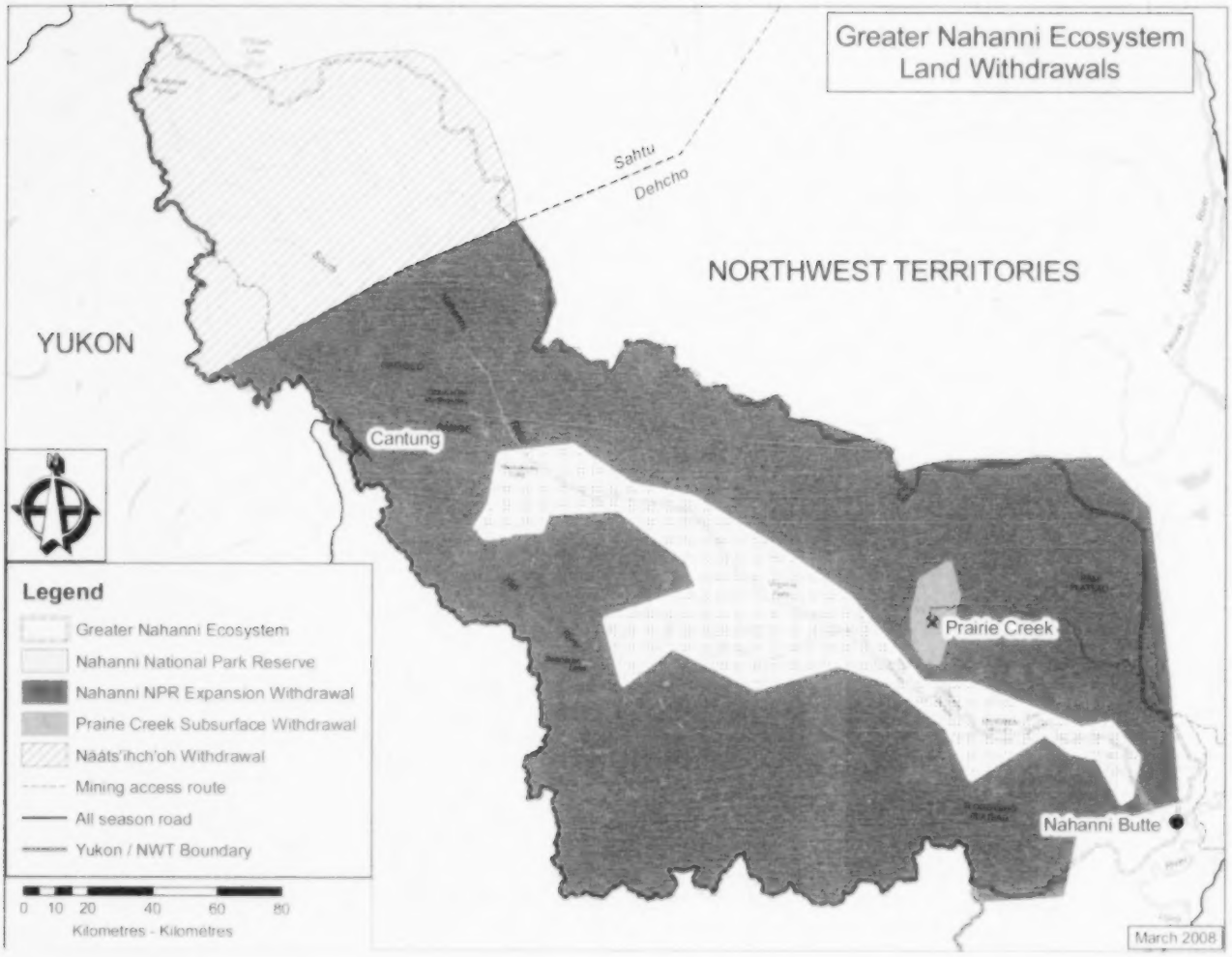
Government of Canada – Parks Canada Agency

Proposed Nááts'ihch'oh National Park Reserve

Parks Canada Agency's (PCA) interest in protecting the Greater Nahanni Ecosystem has been following two different tracks. PCA is working with the Deh Cho First Nations to expand Nahanni National Park Reserve of Canada (also see article on page 11), and has recently started working with land corporations in the Sahtu Settlement Area to establish a new national park reserve to protect the upper watershed of the South Nahanni River.

PCA has entered into a contribution agreement with the Tulita District Land Corporation that will allow individuals and organizations from the Sahtu to participate in the negotiation of an Impact and Benefit Plan (IBP) for the creation of a national park reserve. PCA and the four land corporations – Fort Norman Metis Land/Financial Corporation, Tulita Land and Finance Corporation, Norman Wells Lands and Finance Corporation, and Tulita District Land Corporation – signed a Memorandum of Understanding to work co-operatively toward the development of the IBP. An interim land withdrawal of 7,600 km² has been put in place pursuant to the NWT *Territorial Lands Act*. This will prevent the establishment of new third party rights while decisions are being made on the new park reserve.

Much of the required research has been completed including a Mineral and Energy Resource Assessment, published as an "Open File" in November 2007. Further research will be completed



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Much of the required research has been completed including a Mineral and Energy Resource Assessment, published as an "Open File" in November 2007. Further research will be completed

in 2008 including work on cultural resources.

This new park reserve is to be called Nááts'ihch'oh, named after a unique geographical feature and landmark overlooking the Moose Ponds at the top of the South Nahanni River. The English name for this peak is Mount Wilson.

Sahoyúé - ?ehdacho National Historic Site of Canada

On March 11, 2007, Canada's Minister of the Environment and Minister responsible for Parks Canada signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Deline First Nation and the Deline Land Corporation to work toward the permanent protection and co-operative management of Sahoyue - ?ehdacho National Historic Site of Canada. Co-operative management agreement negotiations concluded in March 2008. The agreement protects the site for the benefit of the Sahtugot'ine (people of Great Bear Lake) and all Canadians; recognizes the parties' shared ownership and common interests; and enables the Sahtugot'ine to continue their traditional uses of the land.

Since 2000 Parks Canada has worked closely with the Deline First Nation, federal and territorial stakeholders and environmental groups to support the site's candidacy as a protected area under the NWT Protected Areas Strategy (PAS). In November 2007, the Sahoyue-?ehdacho Working Group, created under the PAS, issued its final report recommending that Deline and Parks Canada negotiate an agreement as provided for in the *Sahtu Dene and Metis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement* (also see article on page 19).

Sahoyue - ?ehdacho (Grizzly Bear Mountain and Scented Grass Hills National Historic Site of Canada) was designated in 1997 as a result of consultations with the Sahtu Dene and Metis First Nation. This site represents an Aboriginal cultural landscape of 5,587 km^2 located on two peninsulas at Great Bear Lake, NWT near the community of Deline.

The Crown lands that make up the site were given interim protection pending the conclusion of the co-operative management and protected area agreement that will now provide for the site's long-term protection. Once established in legislation, this will be the first national historic site of Canada acquired on the basis of consultations with Aboriginal peoples.

South Slave

Government of Canada – Parks Canada Agency

East Arm of Great Slave Lake National Park Proposal

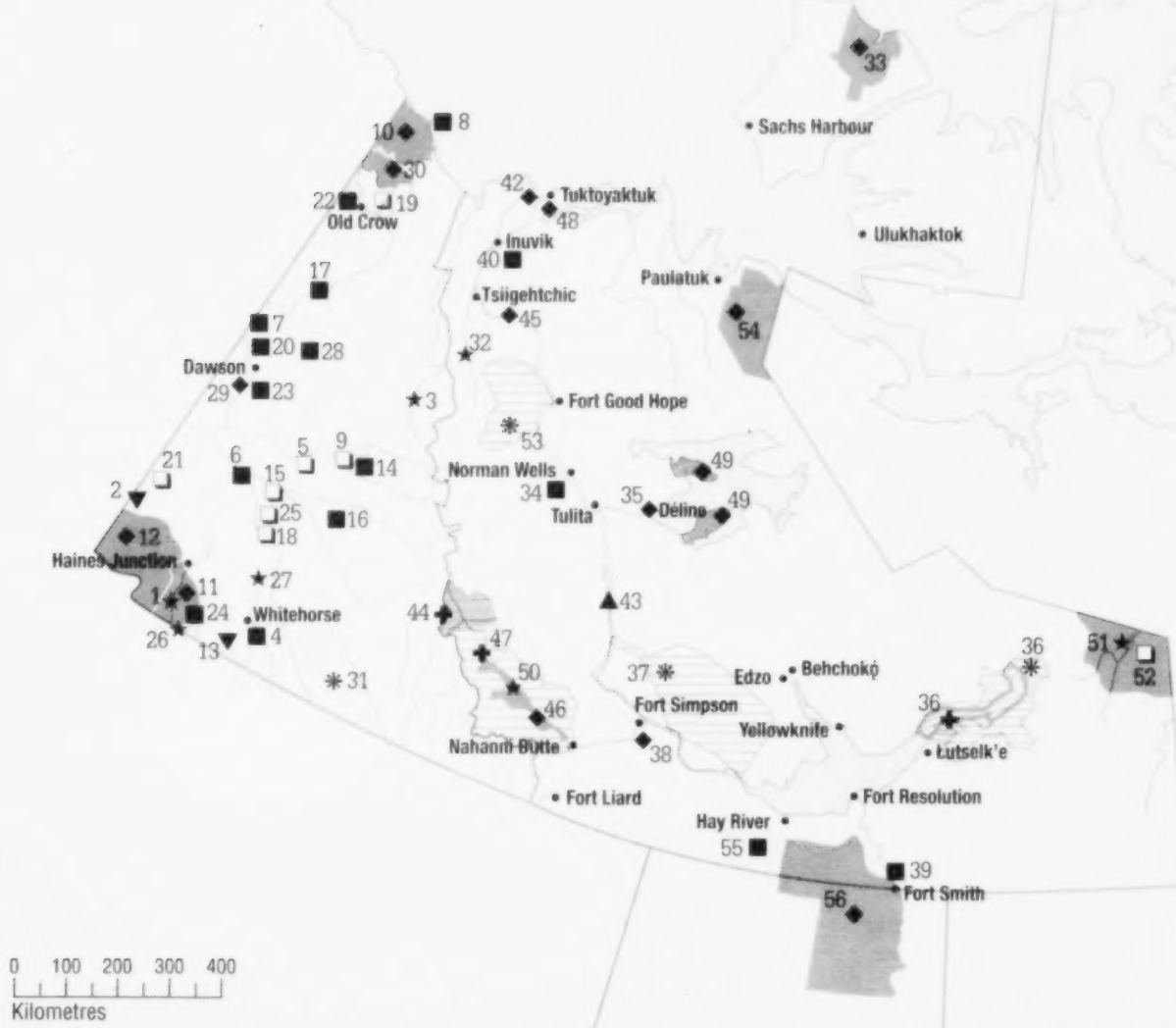
In November 2007 the Minister of the Environment and Minister responsible for Parks Canada announced the withdrawal of 26,350 km^2 of land in the vicinity of the East Arm of Great Slave Lake and Artillery Lake. This interim withdrawal is for a period of five years and is in addition to the 7,340 km^2 of lands already withdrawn indefinitely for national park purposes in 1970. During the period of the interim land withdrawal, Parks Canada will carry out a feasibility assessment for the establishment of a national park. The study area totals approximately 33,690 km^2.

The feasibility assessment will include the gathering of further information on the area's natural and cultural resources, a study of

© D. Murray, Parks Canada, September 2006

Eskers – north end of Artillery Lake

Yukon and Northwest Territories



Yukon

1. Aïsek
2. Asi Keyi
3. Bonnet Plume
4. Canyon City
5. Ddhaw Ghro Habitat Protection Area
6. Fort Selkirk
7. Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy & Fort Constantine
8. Herschel Island
9. Horseshoe Slough Habitat Protection Area
10. Ivvavik NP
11. Kluane NP
12. Kluane NPR
13. Kusawa Lake
14. Lansing Post
15. L'hutsaw Wetlands Habitat Protection Area
16. Mabel McIntyre House
17. Ni'iinlii' Njik - Fishing Branch
18. Nordenskiold River Habitat Protection Area
19. Old Crow Special Management Area
20. Original Telegraph Office, Yukon Sawmill Co. Office (Dawson)
21. Pickhandle Lakes Habitat Protection Area
22. Rampart House
23. Ridge Road Heritage Trail
24. Shäwshe
25. Ta'tla Mun Special Management Area
26. Tatshenshini
27. Thirty Mile (Yukon River)
28. Tombstone
29. Tr'ochëk NHS
30. Vuntut NP
31. Wolf Lake

NWT

32. Arctic Red River
33. Aulavik NP
34. Canol Trail/Dodo Canyon
35. Délı̨nę Fishery & Fort Franklin NHS
36. East Arm of Great Slave Lake
37. Edéhzhíe/Mills Lake
38. Ehdaa NHS
39. Fort Smith Mission
40. Gwich'in
41. Hidden Lake
42. Kitigaryuit NHS
43. Mackenzie River (or portions thereof)
44. Nááts'ihch'oh
45. Nagwichoonjik NHS
46. Nahanni NPR
47. Nahanni NPR (expansion area)
48. Pingo Canadian Landmark
49. Sahoyúé - ?ehdacho NHS
50. South Nahanni
51. Thelon
52. Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary
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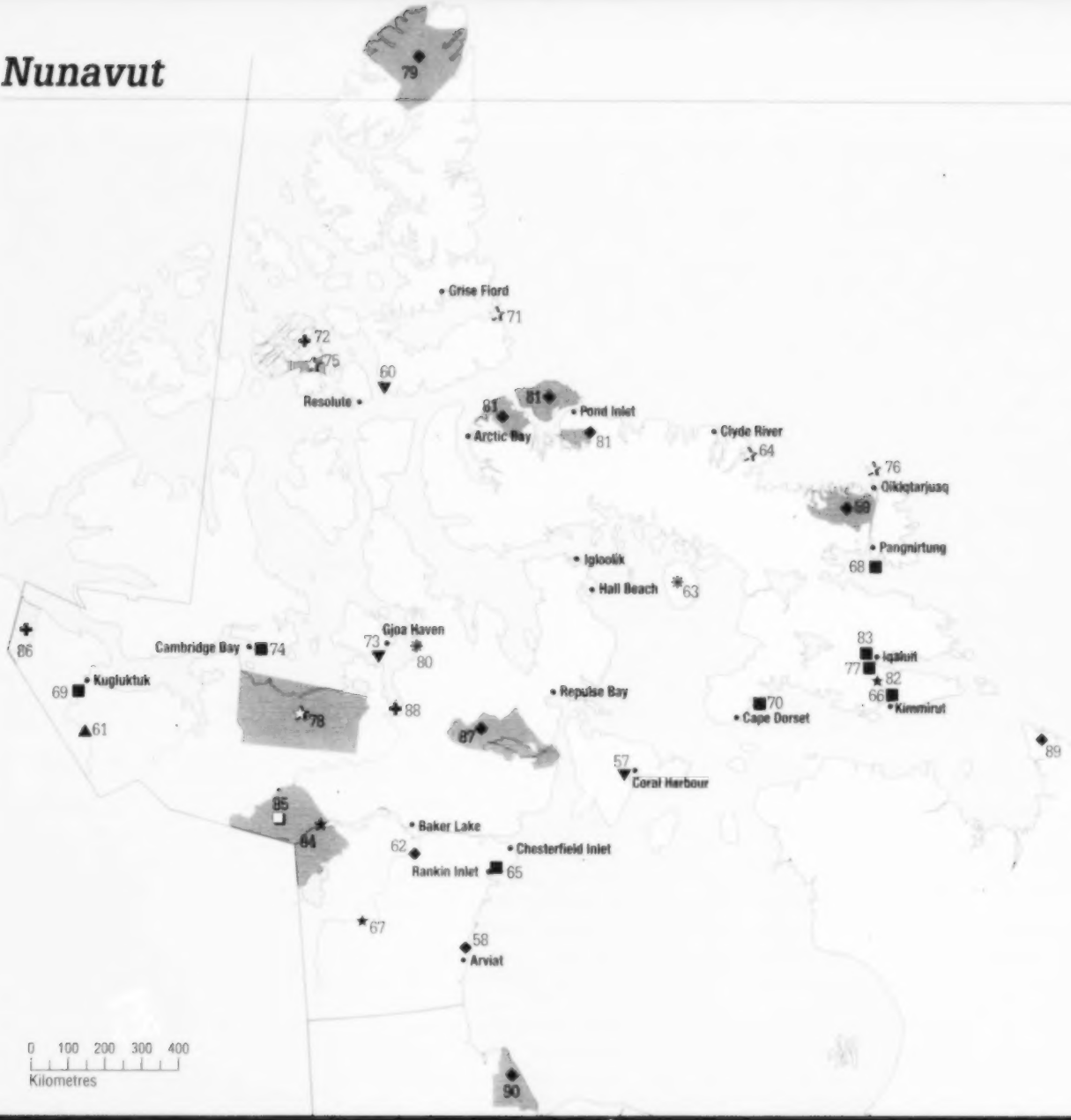
54. Tuktut Nogait NP
55. Twin Falls Gorge
56. Wood Buffalo NP

Nunavut



Nunavut

57. Alijivik (Ruin Point)
58. Arvia'juaq NHS
59. Auyuittuq NP
60. Beechey Island
61. Coppermine
62. Fall Caribou Crossing NHS
63. Foxe Basin Islands
64. Igaliqtuuq NWA (proposed)
65. Iqalugaarjuup Nunanga
66. Katannilik
67. Kazan
68. Kekerten
69. Kugluk
70. Mallikjuaq
71. Nirjutiqavvik NWA
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73. Northwest Passage/Franklin Expedition
74. Ovayok
75. Polar Bear Pass NWS
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77. Qaummaarviit
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80. Rasmussen Lowlands
81. Sirmilik NP
82. Soper
83. Sylvia Grinnell
84. Thelon
85. Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary
86. Tuktut Nogait
87. Ukkusiksalik NP
88. Utkuhiksalik

Other

89. Torngat Mountains NPR, NL
90. Wapusk NP, MB

Legend

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- ▨ Proposed Parks
- ▤ Study Area
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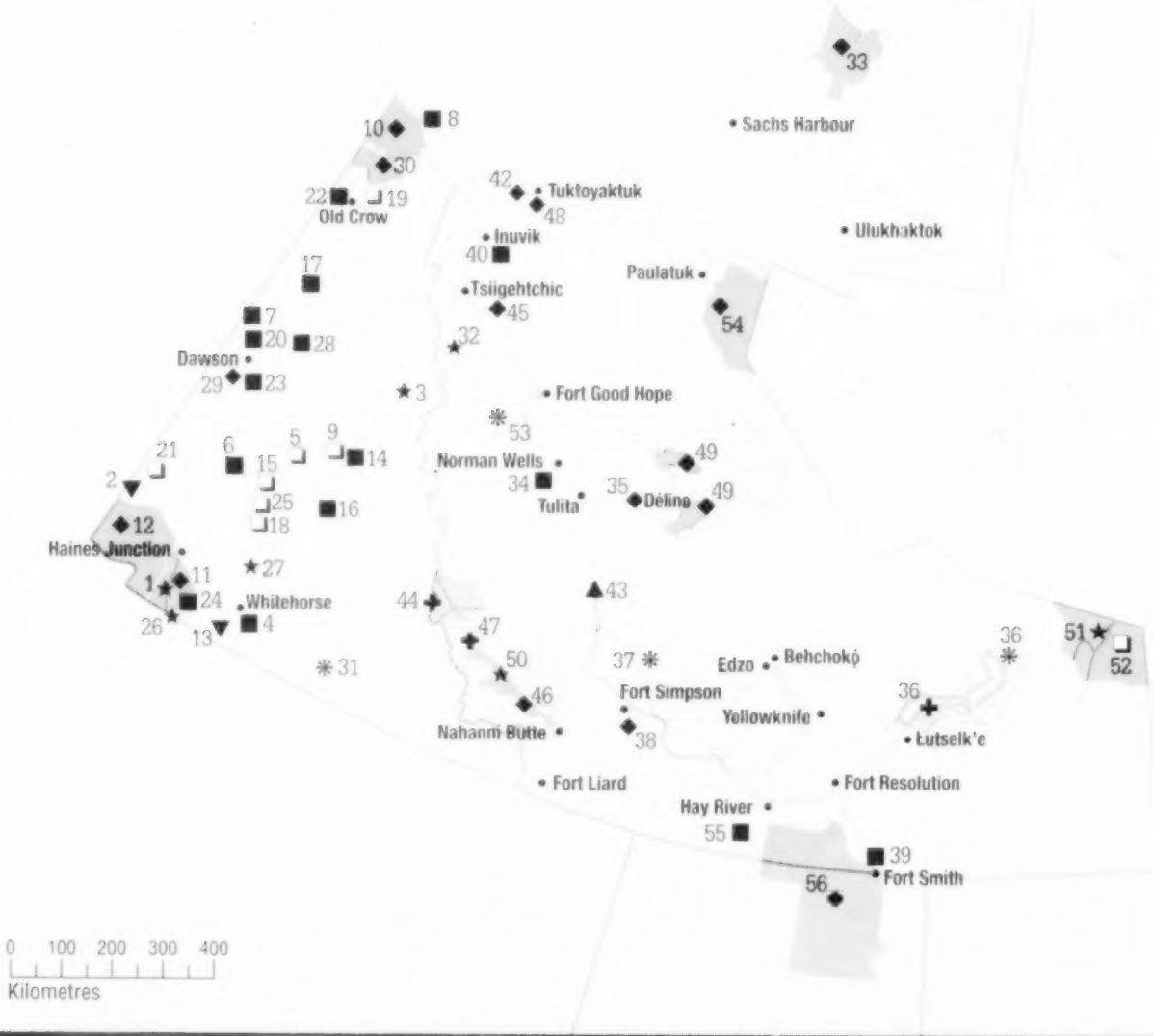
- Migratory Bird Sanctuaries (MBS) and National Wildlife Areas (NWA)
- ✱ Areas Under Study
- ✚ National Park and Historic Site Proposals
- ★ Heritage Rivers
- ▼ Territorial Park and Historic Site Proposals
- ▲ Proposed Heritage Rivers
- ❑ Other Conservation Areas

Yukon and Northwest Territories



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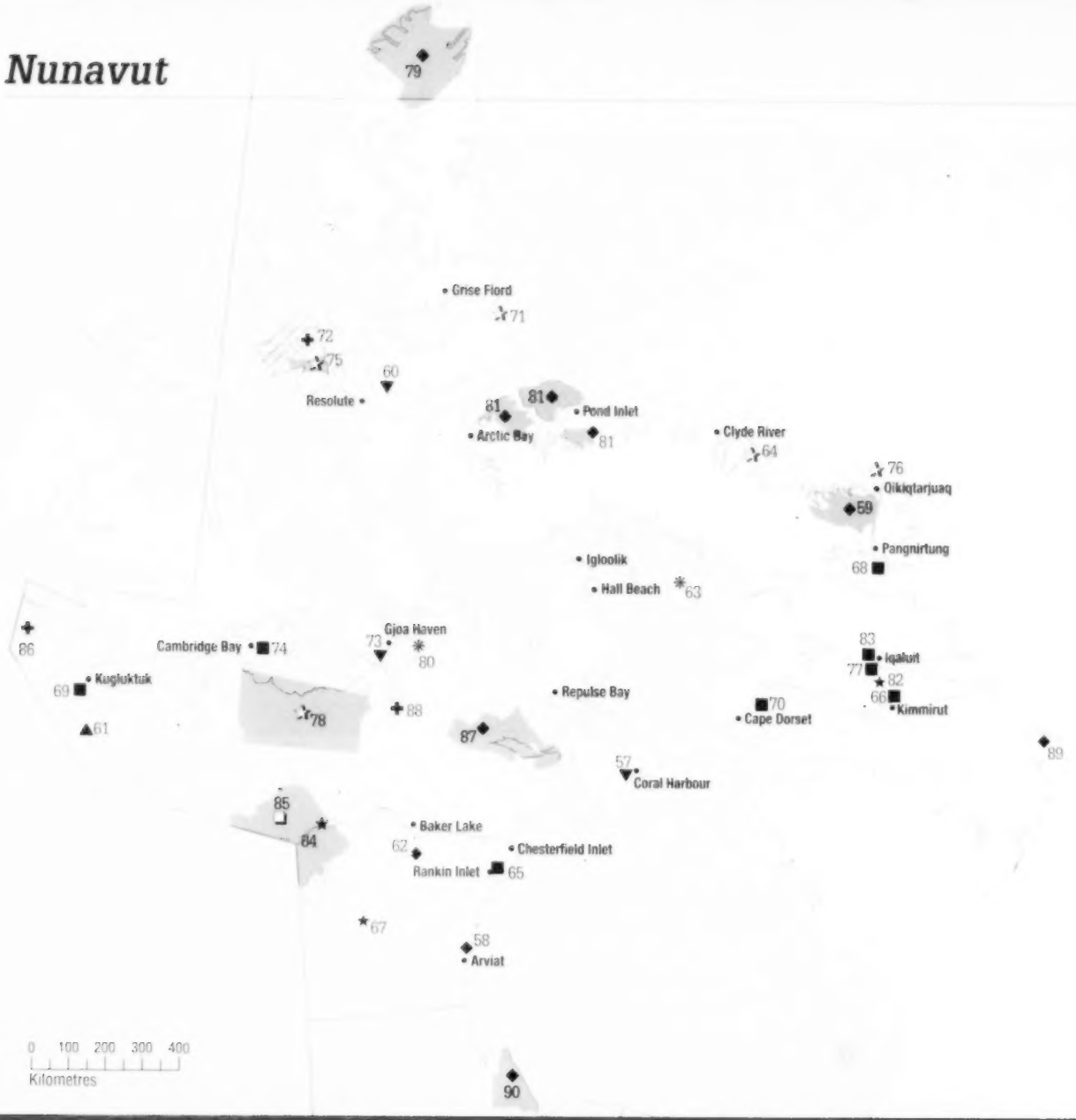
Nunavut



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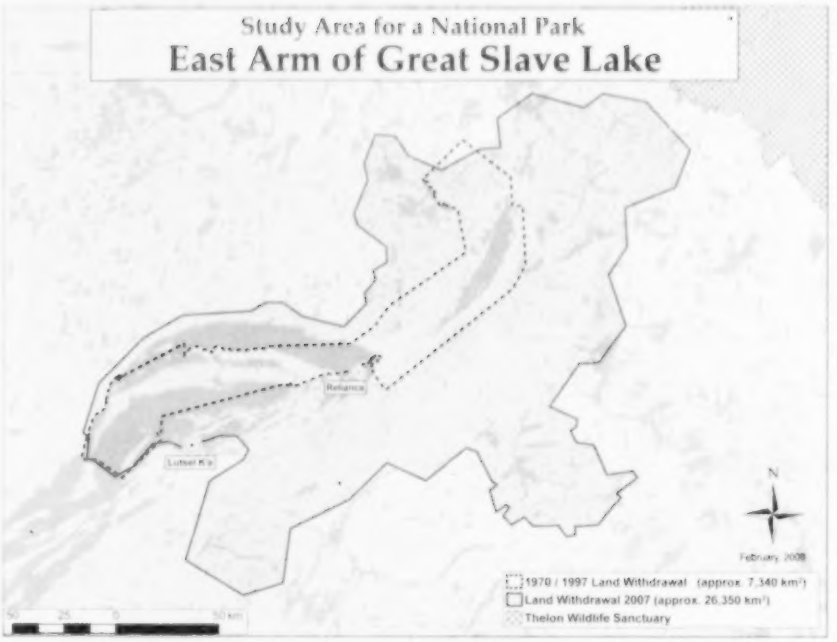
- ❑ Other Conservation Areas

the potential economic and tourism impacts and benefits of a park, and an assessment of the mineral and energy resource potential. Public consultations, which are an important part of the feasibility assessment, will likely begin in 2008.

Consultations with Aboriginal groups, such as the Łutsel K'e Dene First Nation, the Northwest Territory Metis Nation and, potentially, the Athabasca Denesoline, must be conducted in a manner that meets requirements established by the courts. This means that these potentially affected Aboriginal groups have a very significant influence on whether a park is established and, if so, under what terms and in what configuration. It is likely take four years for the required consultations and negotiations to be completed with these groups.



Initiatives Spanning Two or More Claim Areas

Government of Canada – Environment Canada

Canadian Wildlife Services

Edéhzhíe (Horn Plateau)

This plateau, located in the Mackenzie Valley, NWT, is a cultural and spiritual gathering place for the Tłı̨cho and Dehcho First Nations. Edéhzhíe is the second area of interest to attain interim protection through the NWT Protected Areas Strategy, and is now in the final stages of Step 5. This initiative is supported by the Tłı̨cho and Dehcho First Nations, and sponsored by the Canadian Wildlife Service. Ecological and resource assessments, a draft management plan and a strategic environmental assessment have been completed. A socio-economic analysis is scheduled for completion in 2008. The Edéhzhíe Working Group expects to make its final recommendations on establishment, management and boundaries later in 2008.

Sambaa K'e (Trout Lake)

Sambaa K'e is an important cultural and spiritual place for the community of Trout Lake, NWT, as well as an important area for birds. The Canadian Wildlife Service is the sponsoring agency for this area under the NWT Protected Areas Strategy (PAS) and conducted the first of two years of ecological assessment fieldwork in 2007. Mineral and petroleum assessments are also under way with completion scheduled for 2010. A multi-stakeholder working group has been established to guide and direct Sambaa K'e through Step 5 of NWT PAS assessments and consultations, as well as make recommendations on boundaries and management objectives. Most of this area is withdrawn from further land dispositions through the Dehcho Interim Measures Agreement which expires in October 2008.

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Mary Deneron scraping moosehide, Sambaa K'e

© D. Mulders, CWS, 2005

Wetlands in Ts'ude niline Tu'eyeta

Ts'ude niline Tu'eyeta (Ramparts River and Wetlands)

Ts'ude niline Tu'eyeta is a critical wetland area that has been an important hunting, trapping and fishing area for residents of Fort Good Hope, NWT, for generations. The Canadian Wildlife Service, as the sponsoring agency for this area, obtained an interim land withdrawal in November 2007 which expires October 2011. The ecological assessment of this area has been completed. Mineral and petroleum assessments are continuing and scheduled for completion in late 2009. Drafting of a management plan will begin in 2008. A multi-stakeholder working group has been established to guide and direct Ts'ude niline Tu'eyeta through Step 5 of the NWT Protected Areas Strategy (PAS) assessments and consultations, as well as make recommendations on boundaries and management objectives.

Edehzhie, Sambaa K'e, and several other areas in the early stages of the NWT PAS process, including Pehdzeh Ki Ndeh, Buffalo Lake and Buffalo River, and K'a'gee Tu, are covered by ongoing land, resource and governance negotiations involving the Dehcho First Nations and the governments of Canada and the NWT. The PAS process will be taken into account in these negotiations.

For more information on these and other PAS initiatives or the PAS in general, visit ***www.nwtpas.ca*** or contact the PAS Secretariat at (867) 920-3179.

Government of the NWT – Industry, Tourism and Investment

Tourism and Parks

Canadian Heritage Rivers

Mackenzie River Proposal

The process to designate Canada's largest river as a Canadian Heritage River continues. The designation process for the Mackenzie River began in late 2002 with community meetings to obtain support for a nomination bid.

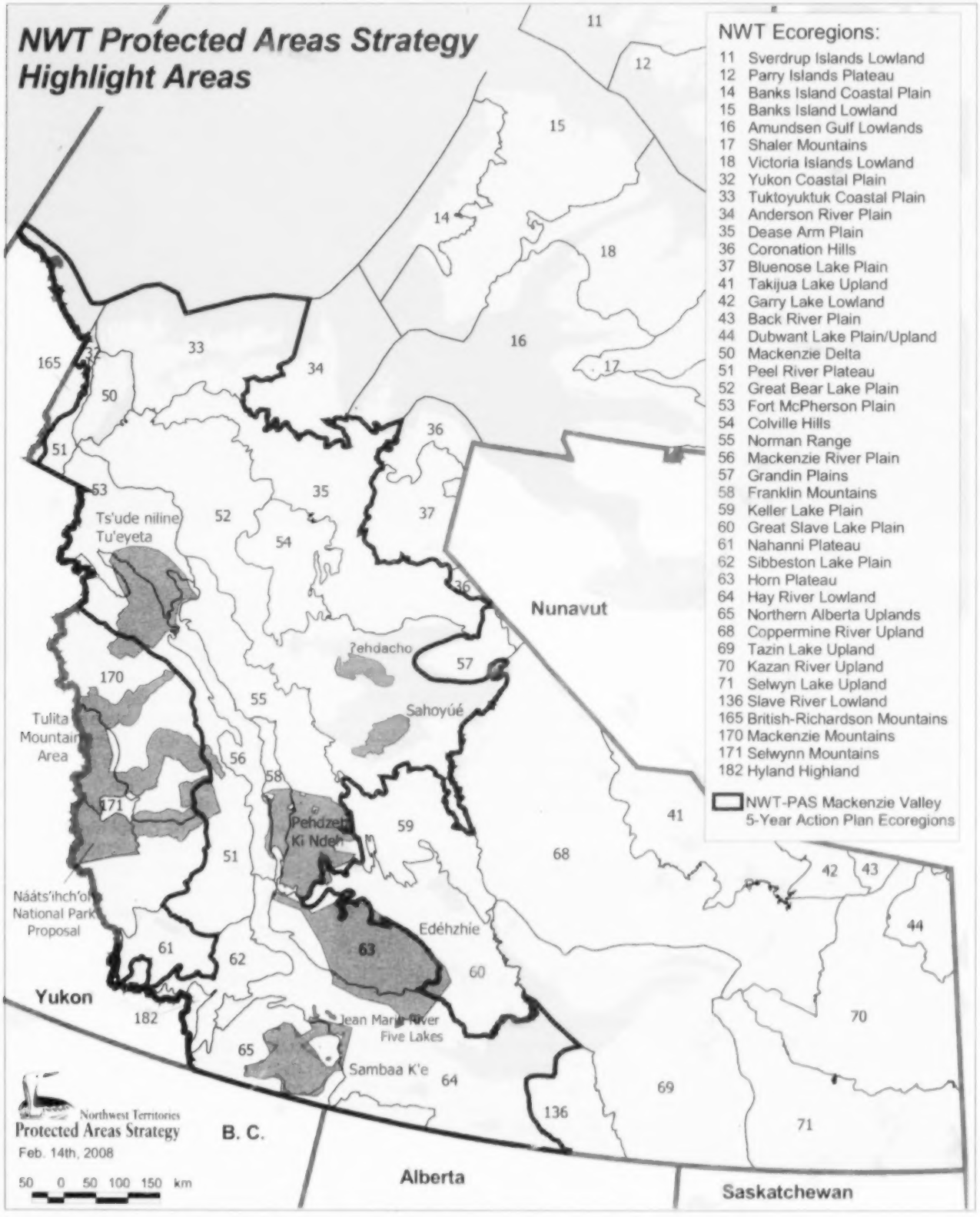
Because of the sheer size of the Mackenzie, the nomination process continues to be lengthy. Originating out of the Great Slave Lake, it runs 1,730 km north to the Arctic Ocean. Together with its tributaries, the Mackenzie drains 1,805,200 km^2. Along this great expanse are five cultural groups and innumerable species of flora and fauna.

Natural Values Chapter

In 2005, the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute completed the Annotated Bibliography of Sources Related to the Natural Values of the Mackenzie River which was written to serve as both a stand-alone reference document and a resource for drafting the final chapter of the nomination paper. The bibliography consists of nine separate natural themes: biotic, climate change, contaminants, fauna, hydrology, river morphology, natural resources, physiography and vegetation.

Cultural Values Chapters

There are four distinct cultural areas along the Mackenzie River and separate chapters are being written


NWT Protected Areas Strategy
Highlight Areas
NWT Ecoregions:
11 Sverdrup Islands Lowland
12 Parry Islands Plateau
14 Banks Island Coastal Plain
15 Banks Island Lowland
16 Amundsen Gulf Lowlands
17 Shaler Mountains
18 Victoria Islands Lowland
32 Yukon Coastal Plain
33 Tuktoyuktuk Coastal Plain
34 Anderson River Plain
35 Dease Arm Plain
36 Coronation Hills
37 Bluenose Lake Plain
41 Takijua Lake Upland
42 Garry Lake Lowland
43 Back River Plain
44 Dubwant Lake Plain/Upland
50 Mackenzie Delta
51 Peel River Plateau
52 Great Bear Lake Plain
53 Fort McPherson Plain
54 Colville Hills
55 Norman Range
56 Mackenzie River Plain
57 Grandin Plains
58 Franklin Mountains
59 Keller Lake Plain
60 Great Slave Lake Plain
61 Nahanni Plateau
62 Sibbeston Lake Plain
63 Horn Plateau
64 Hay River Lowland
65 Northern Alberta Uplands
68 Coppermine River Upland
69 Tazin Lake Upland
70 Kazan River Upland
71 Selwyn Lake Upland
136 Slave River Lowland
165 British-Richardson Mountains
170 Mackenzie Mountains
171 Selwynn Mountains
182 Hyland Highland
NWT-PAS Mackenzie Valley 5-Year Action Plan Ecoregions
Ts'ude niline Tu'eyeta
Tulita Mountain Area
Ɂehdacho
Sahoyúé
Pehdzeh Ki Ndeh
Náàts'ihch'oh National Park Proposal
Edéhzhíe
Jean Marie River
Five Lakes
Sambaa K'e
Nunavut
Yukon
B. C.
Alberta
Saskatchewan
Northwest Territories
Protected Areas Strategy
Feb. 14th, 2008
50 0 50 100 150 km

for each. Dene people make up the majority of the population in the Dehcho, Sahtu and Gwich'in areas. The Inuvialuit people form the majority of the population in the fourth area.

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To date, cultural values chapters have been completed for the Gwich'in and Sahtu portions. The Dehcho chapter is next in the process.

NWT Protected Areas Strategy

Overview

The NWT Protected Areas Strategy (PAS) is a community-guided process to protect culturally and ecologically important areas in the NWT. It recognizes the need to balance conservation and economic development and respect the rights of communities and industries.

The NWT PAS was signed by the territorial and federal governments in 1999. It was developed by regional Aboriginal organizations, the territorial and federal governments, environmental non-governmental organizations and industry. Representatives from these organizations continue to oversee the process through participation on the NWT PAS Steering Committee.

The goals of the NWT PAS are to protect special natural and cultural areas and core representative areas within each NWT ecoregion. Establishing core representative protected areas will contribute to the conservation of the entire diversity of landforms, vegetation, wildlife and habitats. Communities and planning boards have identified areas for conservation. These areas, along with basic landscape feature information, have been mapped to ensure each ecoregion is adequately represented. The NWT PAS has provided assistance to land use planning boards and communities in the selection of lands to protect and conserve biodiversity. A technical report of the research process will be available in the spring of 2008.

In March 2007, the Government of Canada announced the investment of $10 million over two years to conserve ecologically important lands in the NWT.

Mackenzie Valley Five-Year Action Plan

The Mackenzie Valley Five-Year (2005-2010) Action Plan is part of the Protected Areas Strategy. The Action Plan is designed to help communities identify, review, establish interim protection, and achieve a network of protected areas in the Mackenzie Valley. The Action Plan was developed to identify and protect areas in advance of, or concurrently with, the development of the proposed Mackenzie Gas Project.

Highlights of 2007

As of December 2007, the 20 areas identified by communities and regional organizations are at various stages in the NWT Protected Areas Strategy process.

Sahtu Settlement Area

Sahoyúé - ?ehdacho (Grizzly Bear Mountain and Scented Grass Hills)

In March 2007, the Minister of the Environment and Minister responsible for Parks Canada announced funding for the long-term management and protection of these two peninsulas in Great Bear Lake as a National Historic Site of Canada. The Minister also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Déline Land Corporation and Déline First Nation that provides for Parks Canada and the Déline organizations to negotiate an agreement for co-operative management and permanent protection of Sahoyúé - ?ehdacho. The MOU recognizes the parties' shared ownership of the site and their common interests in its permanent protection in ways that respect the values it represents. All assessments and the Sahoyue - ?ehdacho Working Group's final report, including recommendations for the boundary, designation and management objectives, are available on the NWT Protected Areas Strategy website ***www.nwtpas.ca***. (Also see article on page 13.)

Ts'ude niline Tu'eyeta (Ramparts River and Wetlands)

The Government of Canada granted an interim land withdrawal for the Ts'ude niline Tu'eyeta Candidate Protected Area in November 2007. A total of 15,087 km^2 has been withdrawn from industrial development for approximately four years. The Canadian Wildlife Service, as the sponsor of Ts'ude niline Tu'eyeta, is seeking permanent protection for the area as a National Wildlife Area through the *Canada Wildlife Act*. A Working Group was established in June 2007 to oversee the detailed assessments of the area's ecological, cultural and economic values as required as part of the NWT Protected Areas Strategy process, and to produce the final recommendations report. Mineral assessments began during the summer of 2007. (Also see article on page 17.)

Tulita Mountain Area

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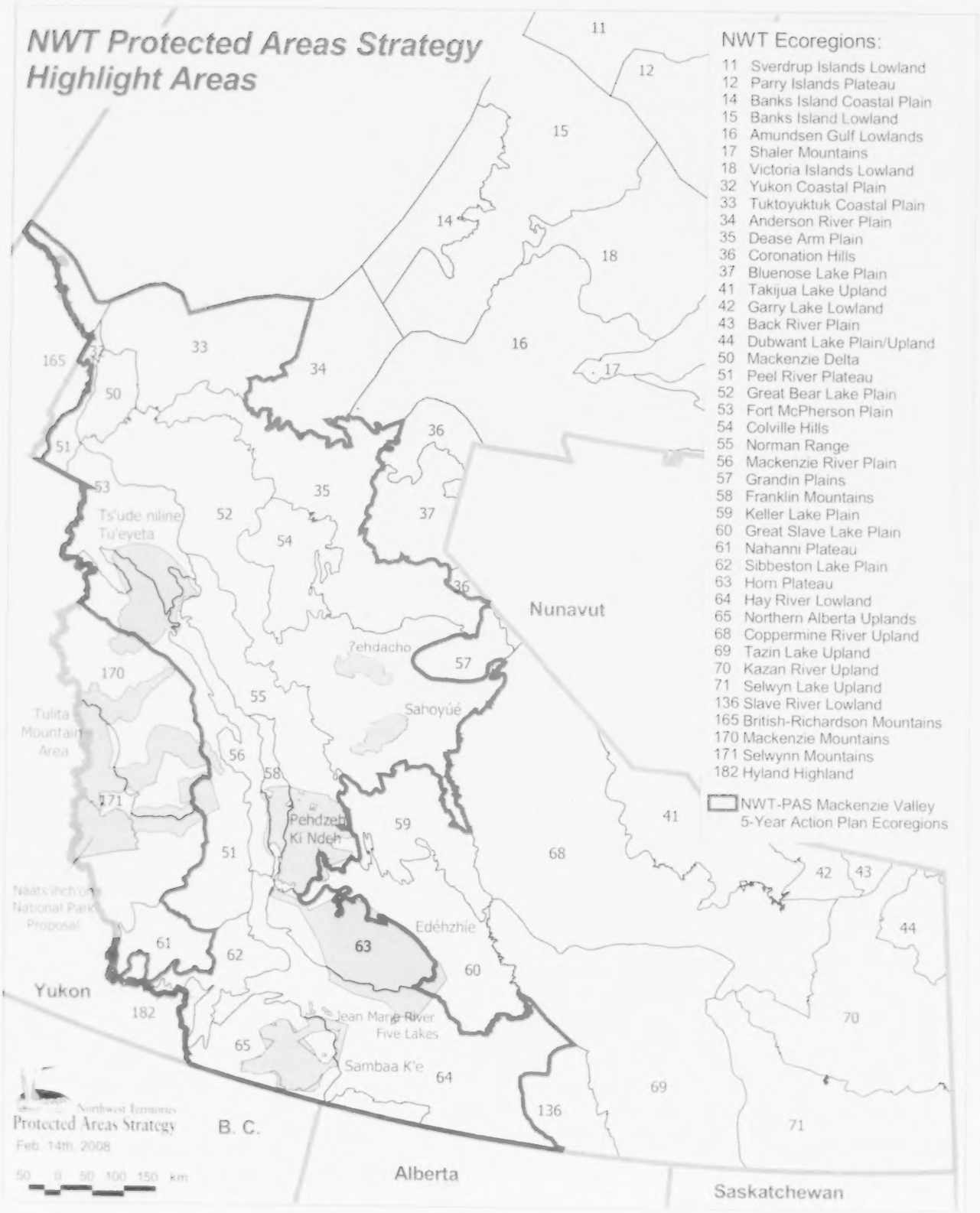
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15 Banks Island Lowland
16 Amundsen Gulf Lowlands
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18 Victoria Islands Lowland
32 Yukon Coastal Plain
33 Tuktoyuktuk Coastal Plain
34 Anderson River Plain
35 Dease Arm Plain
36 Coronation Hills
37 Bluenose Lake Plain
41 Takijua Lake Upland
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43 Back River Plain
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53 Fort McPherson Plain
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Sambaa K'e
Nunavut
Yukon
B. C.
Alberta
Saskatchewan
Northwest Territories
Protected Areas Strategy
Feb. 14th, 2008
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established until a sponsoring agency is confirmed. A request has been made to the Sahtu Land Use Planning Board to harmonize the boundaries for the Tulita Mountain Area with those for the proposed conservation zone in the draft Sahtu Land Use Plan.

Nahanni Headwaters – proposed Nááts'ihch'oh National Park Reserve

In the fall of 2007, the Land Corporations of the Tulita District approved support for a land withdrawal for a national park proposal for the South Nahanni Headwaters in the Sahtu Settlement Area. It is being negotiated as a stand-alone national park. This area now moves from the NWT Protected Areas Strategy process to the process identified under the *Sahtu Dene and Metis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement* to establish a national park. (Also see article on page 12.)

Dehcho

Edéhzhíe (Horn Plateau)

The land withdrawal for Edéhzhíe has been given a 16-month extension until October 31, 2008. The final studies to be completed are the non-renewable resource assessment and socio-economic assessment. Following a public review of the candidate area, the Edéhzhíe Working Group is set to complete its final report this year. It will include recommendations for management objectives, designation and boundary. Edéhzhíe is an initiative of both the Dehcho First Nations and the Tłı̨cho Government. (Also see article on page 16.)

Pehdzeh Ki Ndeh

Approximately 35% of Pehdzeh Ki Ndeh (6,444 km^2) was withdrawn in June 2007 under the interim land withdrawal in support of the Dehcho Process. In May 2007, the Pehdzeh Ki First Nation submitted a request to the Government of the NWT, Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI), to sponsor the area as a Cultural Conservation Area under the *Territorial Parks Act*. Assessments of the area's ecological, cultural and economic values are underway and these will be used to prepare the formal proposal requested by ITI.

Jean Marie River

In May 2007, the Jean Marie River Band identified five lakes (183 km^2), just south of the community, for long-term protection through the NWT Protected Areas Strategy process. The Band has received local and regional support for this initiative. Cultural research is being conducted and options for permanent protection are being explored.

Sambaa K'e

The Sambaa K'e Working Group was established in January 2007. Field work for phase II of the ecological assessment began in 2007. Another year of field work is anticipated in 2008. Reconnaissance work was completed for minerals and an economic analysis of the oil and gas potential was initiated. The majority of the area has already been withdrawn under the Dehcho Interim Measures Agreement due to the importance of Sambaa K'e to the people of Trout Lake. It is rapidly moving through the NWT Protected Areas Strategy process. (Also see article on page 16.)

Yukon

Government of Yukon – Tourism and Culture – *Historic Sites Unit*

Berry Creek Moss Houses

In 1970 a trapper reported the remains of three old winter houses near Berry Creek on the Porcupine River in North Yukon. The location was confirmed in 1977 but it wasn't until 2007 that archaeological investigations and oral history research were undertaken with funding assistance from the Historic Places Initiative (HPI). The project was part of a community-based research project that tied into a broader Van Tat Gwich'in cultural technology project.

The project co-ordinated the winter house archaeological research with recording of oral history interviews of Elders and with youth participation. This combines scientific and traditional knowledge and provides a means for transmitting cultural knowledge and practices from older to younger generations.

Structural logs, as well as the remains of a log platform, were found buried beneath a covering of dense moss at one location. Artefacts, indicating early 20th century occupation, were discovered beneath the moss and logs, suggesting that a moss and sod roof had collapsed. This type of house had not been previously documented in Yukon. The preservation of the houses at this locality presents a rare opportunity to investigate construction details and to compare these with semi-subterranean houses described in the archaeological record at other North Yukon sites.

The Berry Creek Project was a collaboration between the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, HPI, Government of Yukon and the University of Alberta.

Herschel Island

Government of Yukon carried out site inspections in August 2007 as part of the work necessary to

prepare a strategic salvage plan for heritage resources located in the Historic Settlement Area on Herschel Island. Staff and students of McGill University shared their information and data from studies they were carrying out on permafrost degradation on the island. The salvage plan is being developed in response to the harmful effects of storms, erosion, melting permafrost, rising sea levels and possible ground subsidence – all apparently being accelerated by global warming.

The threats and effects of climate change on Herschel Island were prominently featured in the media in 2007.

- In February, the islands' cultural resources were included in Heritage Canada Foundation's 2007 "Top Ten" list of Canada's most endangered places.
- Herschel Island was presented in the UNESCO publication *Case Studies on Climate Change and World Heritage*, released in April 2007.
- The World Monuments Fund included Herschel Island in their *2008 Watch List – 100 Most Endangered Sites, 2008* because of the threat of cultural heritage resource loss as a result of climate change.

Maintenance on the historic structures was also carried out in August, focusing on the Rangers' Quarters (former Royal Canadian Corps of Signalers Transmitter Station [1930]) and the Northern Whaling and Trading Company (NW&TC) warehouse [1926]. The Rangers' Quarters included window replacement and installation of floor trim. The east, seaward wall of the NW&TC warehouse was re-clad with sheet metal saved from the dismantling of a shed addition that had been crushed by sea ice driven ashore by storms in 2000.

The NW&TC warehouse is one of three buildings that had been relocated in both 2003 and 2004 due to shoreline erosion. The erosion is being exacerbated by receding sea ice which allows increased wave action during late summer and fall storms. The situation continues to be monitored to see what, if any, further action will be required.

Herschel Island Territorial Park was created in 1987 following settlement of the *Inuvialuit Final Agreement*.

Learn more about Herschel Island at: ***http://www.virtualmuseum.ca/Exhibitions/Herschel/index.htm***

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Historic Settlement Area on Herschel Island

Original Site of Fort Selkirk

Fort Selkirk was established as a Hudson's Bay Company trading post in 1848 near the mouth of the Pelly River at its confluence with the Yukon River. The fort remained in this location until 1851 when, due to spring flooding, it was abandoned and moved to its current location across the Yukon River. There were at least six buildings and approximately 30 people based at the original fort, although many were in transit between hunting and fishing camps. The site is on Selkirk First Nation Settlement Land, within the Fort Selkirk Historic Site Management Area outlined in the *Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement*.

Much of the 2006 archaeological excavation efforts involved clearing the site of brush. Investigations in 2007 turned up a wealth of artefacts, both aboriginal and introduced, and indicated that more investigations are warranted to determine the alignment of the palisade and boundaries of the fort. It is expected that future work will also reveal more evidence of the interaction between cultures when outsiders first entered Yukon.

The project was a collaboration between the Selkirk First Nation and the Government of Yukon. The work at the original fort site will add to the many stories told at Fort Selkirk Historic Site which is co-owned and co-managed by the two governments.

© Government of Yukon, 2007

Lyndelle Joe displaying bone bird blunt found at the original Fort Selkirk

© Government of Yukon, 2007

Rampart House Crew – Duffy Webber, Bertha Frost, Stanley Njootli Jr, Freddy Frost, Moses Lord and Wilfred Josie

More can be learned about Fort Selkirk Historic Site at: ***http://www.virtualmuseum.ca/Exhibitions/FortSelkirk/***

Rampart House

Work on the restoration of the Cadzow House continued in 2007 and the crew's work was highlighted in the Heritage Canada Foundation *Heritage 2008: Work That Endures: Careers in Built Heritage* report. Projects included the reconstruction of the front porch, interior flooring and re-roofing of the house and shed-roofed kitchen addition, as well as reconstruction of the porch landing for the store.

An Interpretive Plan was prepared for Rampart House and Lapierre House Historic Sites in 2007 to provide guidelines for developing on and off-site interpretive programs and materials utilizing the graphic design guidelines developed in 2006.

Rampart House Historic Site is co-owned and co-managed by the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation (VGFN) and the Government of Yukon under terms of the *VGFN Final Agreement*.

Tagish North-West Mounted Police Post

The Tagish North-West Mounted Police (NWMP) Post Historic Site is identified in the *Carcross/Tagish First Nation Final Agreement* as an area to be co-owned and co-managed by the First Nation and the Government of Yukon. It is located approximately 30 km east of Carcross, Yukon, on the Tagish River. The post was established in October 1897 in an effort to deal with the influx of tens of thousands of people during the Klondike Gold Rush. It served as the Canada Customs entry port for travelers taking the Chilkoot, White and Taku River trails into Yukon's interior from the Pacific Coast. In June 1898 it became H Division Headquarters for the NWMP with at least 15 buildings and 43 officers. However, soon after the White Pass and Yukon Route railway linked tidewater to Whitehorse in 1899, it was partially dismantled and the H Division Headquarters moved to Whitehorse. A smaller detachment survived several more years.

In the summer of 2007 preliminary archaeological investigations were carried out to try to gain an understanding of the size of the site and extent of the historic resources. Several Carcross/Tagish First Nation (CTFN) youth assisted in mapping 28 features, including building outlines, cellars and fences. Twenty refuse middens were also found. Record high water levels in the Southern Lakes Region hampered investigation of some of the features nearest the shore. Further investigations are required to complete the archaeological record, and archival and oral history research will contribute to the planning of the site.

The Tagish NWMP Post Historic Site is co-owned and co-managed by the CTFN and the Government of Yukon according to the *CTFN Final Agreement* and the archaeology project is a collaboration between the two governments.

© Government of Yukon, 2007

Tagish Post archaeology crew – Vince Kemble, archaeologist Victoria Castillo, Samantha Darling and Shannon Marks

Department of the Environment – *Yukon Parks*

Canadian Heritage Rivers

Bonnet Plume River

The Bonnet Plume River Canadian Heritage River (CHR) designation in 1998 was a direct result of the First Nation of the Na-Cho Nyak Dun land claim agreement. The heritage river's management plan is intended to ensure that the natural, cultural and recreational values remain intact.

The CHR program calls for annual activity reports on the river's status. Work on the management plan focused on data collection for fish, wildlife and habitat within the river corridor and the adjacent watershed.

A recreational monitoring program was carried out in 2006. Based on the BC Parks Backcountry Recreation Impact Monitoring system, the program collected baseline data at 20 informal campsites between Bonnet Plume Lake and Taco Bar on the Peel River. The data will be compared against future measurements to determining whether a site, or the river itself, is being impacted by river travelers. The information will also be used to prepare a formal ten-year monitoring report detailing the current state of the river and assessing the effectiveness of the management plan. This report, a requirement under the CHR program, is due in 2008.

Being prepared in consultation with the Mayo District Renewable Resources Council and the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyak Dun Chief and Council, the report will focus on developing and recommending effective monitoring protocols for water- and land-based activities within the watershed. It will also review whether the river's intrinsic values have been compromised and whether the designation should change.

The river's remoteness and relatively low recreational use means a follow up assessment will not be necessary for another five to ten years. However, there is considerable usage by mineral exploration companies and the annual monitoring of these industrial activities is a priority.

Tatshenshini River

The Yukon portion of the Tatshenshini River was designated a Canadian Heritage River (CHR) in September 2004 as a requirement of the *Champagne and Aishihik First Nations Final Agreement*. An on-site dedication ceremony was held in July 2005.

The 1,400 km^2 management area is in a region known for its wilderness and spectacular scenic mountains, wildlife and salmon, and significant recreational opportunities. The Tatshenshini management area complements the adjacent UNESCO World Heritage Site consisting of the Kluane National Park and Reserve of Canada, the Tatshenshini-Alsek Park of BC, and the Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve and Wrangell-

St.Elias National Park of the US National Park Service (NPS).

The river monitoring program implemented in summer 2006 is based on the BC Parks Backcountry Recreational Impact Monitoring (BRIM) system. It will provide baseline data for future management decisions related to the recreational use level on the river. Implementation of BRIM on the upper portion of the Tatshenshini complements the system that is in place on the lower portion of the river.

The Tatshenshini's CHR designation does not affect existing legislation, regulations or policies related to land or resource use. Existing and proposed uses of the watershed will continue to be permitted within their legislative frameworks. The Government of Yukon, Parks Canada, BC Parks and the US NPS continue to jointly manage the Tatshenshini/Alsek river drainage in accordance with their own mandates and respective areas of responsibility.

Yukon River-Thirty Mile Section

The Thirty Mile section of the Yukon River, designated a Canadian Heritage River in 1991, receives over 2,000 river travelers a year. The Government of Yukon constructed three new campsites along the river in the 1990s to meet the basic needs of these travelers.

The BC Parks Backcountry Recreational Impact Monitoring system was implemented for the Thirty Mile section in summer 2006 to help manage future visitor levels while enhancing visitor experiences.

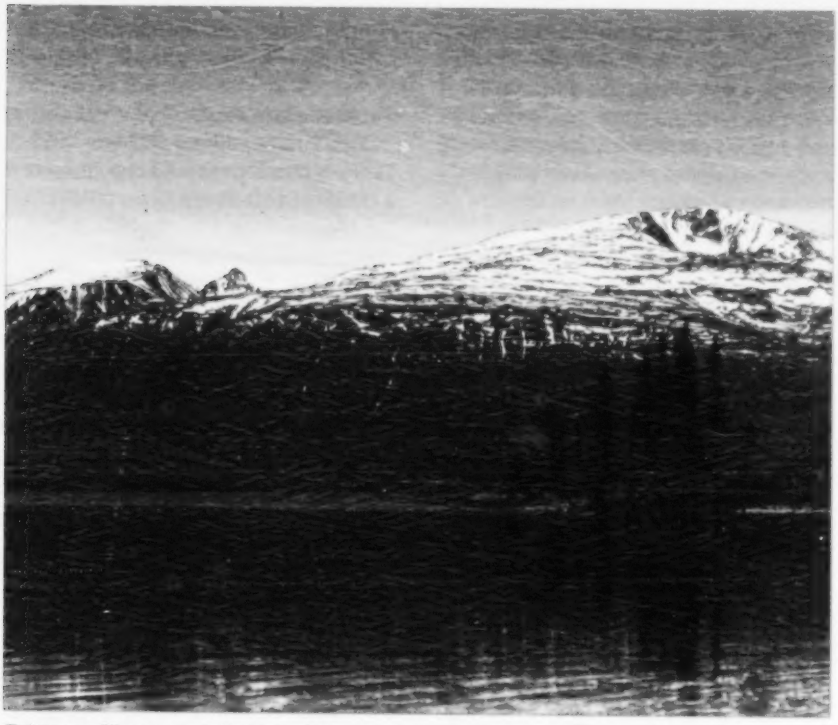
Parks

Kusawa and Agay Mene Territorial Parks

The *Carcross/Tagish First Nation Final Agreement (CTFNFA)* calls for Kusawa Lake and Agay Mene to be Natural Environment Parks. Both proposed parks require special consideration as they overlap the interests of adjacent First Nations. Kusawa Lake is within the CTFN, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations (CAFN), and Kwanlin Dun First Nation (KDFN) traditional territories. Agay Mene is within the Teslin Tlingit Council (TTC) and the CTFN traditional territories.

The process details for preparing a park management plan and establishing two steering committees are contained within Chapter 10 of the *CTFNFA*. The current plan calls for the two steering committees to be appointed in 2008 to begin the planning process for the proposed southern Yukon parks, and provides two years to draft each management plan. The Kusawa Park Steering Committee will consist of representatives from the Government of Yukon (YTG), CTFN, KDFN and CAFN, while the Agay Mene Steering Committee will consist of representatives from YTG, CTFN and the TTC.

Management planning for these two parks is expected to be complex and intensive due to the First Nation overlapping interests and the areas' high recreational use. Both areas will be managed in accordance with the objectives identified in the respective Final Agreements while the steering committees work on the management plans.



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Primrose Narrows at Kusawa Lake

Kusawa

The 3,000 km^2 Kusawa park area provides an excellent example of the southern lakes in this region and straddles the interior and coast mountain ranges to include natural and cultural features of broad interest. Most of the area is within the Yukon Stikine ecoregion which features the merging of three biomes, an unusual biodiversity for a rugged mountain setting.

The proposed park receives significant recreational use, as it is only 70 km west of Yukon's capital, Whitehorse.

Agay Mene

The 697 km² Agay Mene park is broadly representative of the Yukon Southern Lakes ecoregion consisting of plateaus and rolling hills, and is situated within the rain shadow of the Coast Mountains. Forest fires are frequent and extensive occurrences in this ecoregion, resulting in forests dominated by growths of lodgepole pine. It also features attractive lakes and offers excellent angling, boating and hunting opportunities.

Geographically, Agay Mene park will capture Tarfu Lakes and a large portion of the Snafu Lake chain near the southeast corner of the Atlin Road and Alaska Highway, some 89 km south of Whitehorse.

Ni'iinlii' Njik (Fishing Branch) Protected Areas

The Fishing Branch River and its tributaries, located in the North Ogilvie Mountains upstream of Old Crow, form the basis of this protected area. The area is made up of four units – a parcel of Vuntut Gwitchin Settlement Land (141 km²), two territorial parks including an Ecological Reserve (169 km²) and Wilderness Preserve (5,213 km²), and a territorial Habitat Protection Area (978 km²). The *Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation Final Agreement* calls for the areas to be managed as one ecological unit.

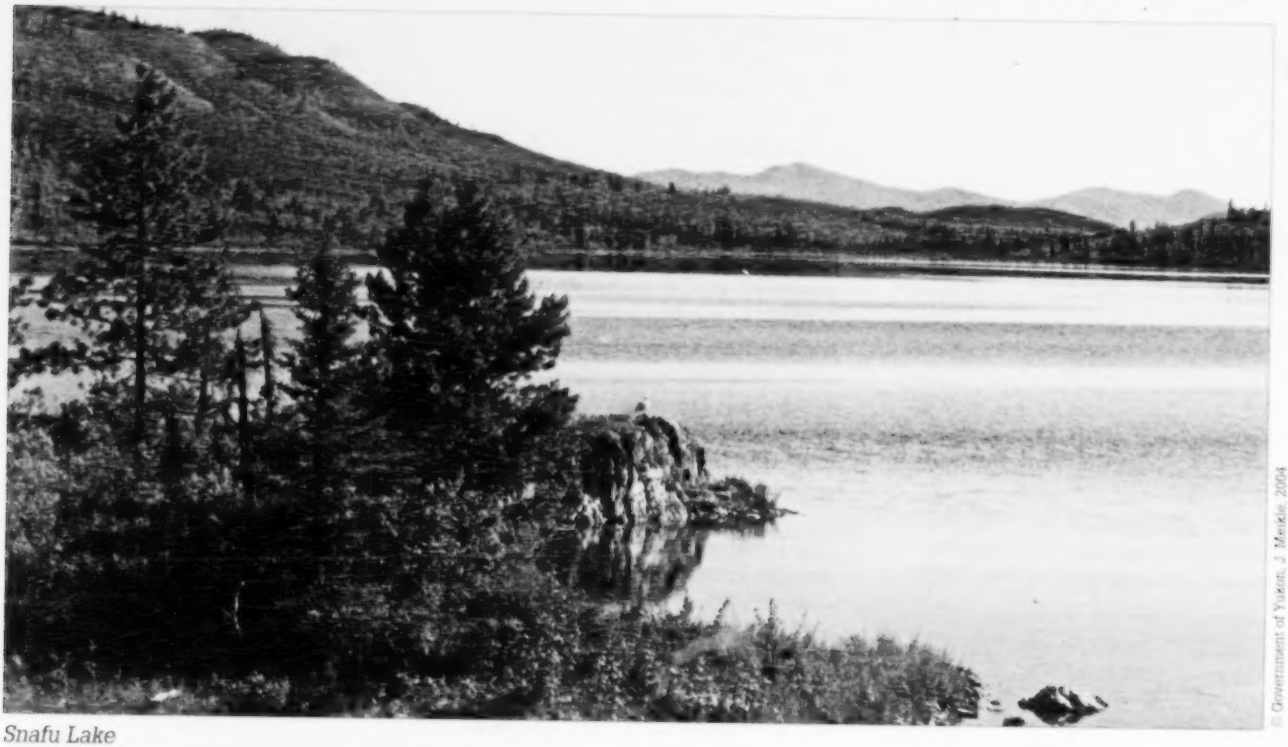
The area is an important grizzly bear habitat, and the Bear Cave Mountain area is famous for its bear viewing opportunities. A management plan to allow viewing opportunities, while protecting the bears from over exposure to people, led to the construction of a viewing/camping facility and an additional outbuilding with some decking. A risk management plan for bears and a commercial bear viewing program, completed in 2006, marked the beginning of a three-year pilot-project to test the commercial wildlife viewing tour concept.

A joint management plan for the larger Wilderness Preserve and Habitat Protection Area, surrounding the settlement lands and Ecological Reserve, was approved in 2004. No further development has been identified for these areas.

Tombstone Territorial Park

The 2,100 km² Tombstone Territorial Park has been designated a Natural Environment Park in accordance with the 1998 *Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement (THFA)*. Located north of Dawson City along the Dempster Highway, where arctic tundra and boreal forest meet the Pacific Arctic Divide, its diverse landscape and spectacular scenery make this a popular destination for hikers and other travelers.

The park management plan was recommended to the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and Yukon governments in January 2003. It is anticipated that recent efforts to resolve outstanding issues may result in the plan being finalized in 2008. In the interim, a variety of initiatives



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Snafu Lake

are underway to fulfill the *THFA* obligations, including wildlife and trail impact monitoring programs. Both governments have appointed representatives to an Interim Management Committee to advise the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Chief and Council and the Yukon's Environment Minister on the management of park operations while the plan undergoes the approval process.

The heavy use at Grizzly, Divide and Talus lakes resulted in the installation of tent platforms to protect their environments. A new backcountry permit system was introduced in 2007 for hikers planning to stay. The permits are free and ensure use levels do not exceed the capacity of the area.

Construction of the new Tombstone Park Interpretive Centre began in 2007 and is scheduled for completion in 2008. The new centre is next to the campground and will replace the facility that has served the park and Dempster Highway travelers since the 1980s.

The Seattle-based Holland America Line runs bus tours to the park from Skagway, Alaska and Dawson City, Yukon. The company, the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the Government of Yukon reached an agreement in 2005 to manage the relatively large number of visitors the company was bringing to the park. Key points in the agreement included hiring eight to ten seasonal interpreters; creating an educational scholarship; establishing a three party program management committee; hiring a seasonal Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in program monitor; developing an interpretive program; and construction of the new interpretive centre. This has resulted in positive economic benefits and increased tourism to the area, and discussions are now being held to extend the agreement beyond 2008.

Special Management Areas

Yukon First Nation Final Agreements provide for the establishment of Special Management Areas that can include other designations as well as parks. In general, these areas are established for ecological values, conservation, habitat protection, traditional First Nation use and public use.

Habitat Protection Areas are designated under the *Yukon Wildlife Act* and can be created under the terms of First Nation Final Agreements, or be proposed independently by Renewable Resource Councils, non-government organizations or members of the public.

Ddhaw Ghro Habitat Protection Area

Ddhaw Ghro is the Northern Tutchone name for the area formerly known as McArthur Wildlife Sanctuary. Ddhaw Ghro is dominated by Grey Hunter Peak and the surrounding hillsides support a population of Fannin sheep, a unique colour variation of Dall's sheep. Important mineral licks, caribou winter range and other unique features are included in this protected area.

Ddhaw Ghro was identified as a Special Management Area under the Final Agreements of the Selkirk and Na-Cho Nyak Dun First Nations. A Steering Committee, comprised of members nominated by these two First Nations and the Government of Yukon (YTG), prepared a management plan for Ddhaw Ghro that underwent public review in June 2006. As a result, the Steering Committee recommended that YTG and the First Nations approve the plan. Designation of Ddhaw Ghro as a Habitat Protection Area under the *Yukon Wildlife Act* is expected in 2008, should the management plan receive approval.

Devil's Elbow / Big Island Habitat Protection Area

Devil's Elbow and Big Island, two small areas along the Stewart River, were identified through traditional and local knowledge as important moose calving areas. This region is also good habitat for waterfowl, fish and a variety of other wildlife.

The Mayo District Renewable Resources Council (MDRRC) proposed this area for consideration as a Habitat Protection Area (HPA). A working group, with representatives from the MDRRC, First Nation of Na-Cho Nyak Dun and the Government of Yukon, is preparing a management plan that is scheduled for completion in 2008. The plan is expected to recommend steps to manage the area and designate it as a HPA.

Horseshoe Slough Habitat Protection Area

Horseshoe Slough is an important waterfowl breeding and staging area in the traditional territory of the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyak Dun in the central Yukon. The area is comprised of Horseshoe Slough, an old oxbow of the Stewart River, and the lower portion of Nogold Creek including numerous shallow ponds within its valley.

Horseshoe Slough was identified for its wildlife and cultural values within the Special Management Area chapter of the *First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun Final Agreement*. A management plan for Horseshoe Slough was jointly prepared by the Mayo District Renewable Resources Council, the First Nation and the Government of Yukon. Approved by the Yukon's Environment Minister in 2001, the area was then designated as a Habitat Protection Area under the *Yukon Wildlife Act*. A five-year review of the plan has been conducted and the revisions were approved in late 2007.

Lutsaw Wetland Habitat Protection Area

Lutsaw Wetlands (formerly Von Wilczek Lakes) is an important wetland complex for shorebirds and duck staging, nesting and moulting along the North Klondike Highway, south of Pelly Crossing. It was identified as a Special Management Area under the *Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement*.

A Steering Committee, of members nominated by the Selkirk First Nation and the Government of Yukon, prepared a management plan for Lutsaw Wetlands. The management plan was approved by the parties in a signing ceremony in the area in August 2006 and will be reviewed in five years. The Lutsaw Wetlands was designated a Habitat Protection Area in 2007 under the *Yukon Wildlife Act*.

Nordenskiold Wetland Habitat Protection Area (Ts'alwnjik Chu)

The Nordenskiold River valley south of Carmacks is a major wetland complex and an important waterfowl staging and nesting area. It has been identified as a Special Management Area under the *Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation Final Agreement*.

A Steering Committee, nominated by the Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation and the Government of Yukon, prepared a draft management plan in 2007. Approval of the plan and designation as a Habitat Protection Area under the *Yukon Wildlife Act* is expected in 2008.

Ta'tla Mun Special Management Area

Ta'tla Mun (formerly Tatlmain Lake) is an important food fish lake southeast of Pelly Crossing in the traditional territory of the Selkirk First Nation. It is a reputed high quality fly-in sport fishing lake. Ta'tla Mun was identified as a Special Management Area under the *Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement*.

A Steering Committee, with members nominated by the Yukon and Selkirk governments, involved the public in the management plan development and the parties approved the plan in 2002. A five-year review of the plan was initiated in 2007.

For More Information

Additional information on the initiatives described in New Parks North can be obtained from the following offices:

National Parks, National Historic Sites and National Marine Conservation Areas

Parks Canada
Box 1166
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N8
www.pc.gc.ca

Attention:	The Editor New Parks North
phone:	(867) 766-8460
fax:	(867) 766-8466
e-mail:	newparksnorth. info@pc.gc.ca

Nunavut Parks and Special Places

Department of the Environment
Government of Nunavut
Box 1000, Station 1340
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0
www.nunavutparks.com
or **www.nunavutparks.ca**

Attention:	Richard Wyma Manager, Parks: Program Development
Phone:	(867) 975-7724
Fax:	(867) 975-7747
E-mail:	parks@gov.nu.ca

NWT Migratory Bird Sanctuaries and National Wildlife Areas

Environment Canada
Canadian Wildlife Service
#5204 - 50th Ave, Suite 301
Yellowknife, NT X1A 1E2
www.mb.ec.gc.ca

Attention:	Bruce MacDonald Section Head, Northern Canada
phone:	(867) 669-4779
fax:	(867) 873-6776
e-mail:	brucea.macdonald @ec.gc.ca

NWT Territorial Parks and Canadian Heritage Rivers

Industry, Tourism and Investment
Government of the NWT
Box 1320
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9
www.nwtparks.ca
or **www.explorenwt.com**

Attention:	Stephanie Yuill Manager, Tourism Operations
phone:	(867) 920-6260
fax:	(867) 873-0163
e-mail:	stephanie_yuill @gov.nt.ca

Yukon Historic Sites

Department of Tourism and Culture
Cultural Services Branch
Government of Yukon
Box 2703
Whitehorse, YT Y1A 2C6
www.tc.gov.yk.ca/79.html
or **www.yukonhistoricplaces.ca**

Attention:	Doug Olynyk Manager of Historic Sites
phone:	(867) 667-5295
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Yukon Territorial Parks and Heritage Rivers

Department of the Environment
Yukon Parks
Government of Yukon
Box 2703
Whitehorse, YT Y1A 2C6
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Attention:	Dave Ladret Special Projects Officer Wilderness Tourism Licensing, Deputy Registrar
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For More Information... *continued*

fax: (867) 393-6223
toll free: 1-800-661-0408
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NWT Protected Areas Strategy
Environment and Natural Resources
Government of the NWT
Box 1320
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9
www.nwtpas.ca
Attention: Michelle Swallow
Co-ordinator, Protected Areas Strategy Secretariat
phone: (867) 920-3179
fax: (867) 873-0293
e-mail: nwt_pas@gov.nt.ca

NWT PAS Steering Committee Members

NWT Métis Nation
(867) 872-2770, ext. 33

Inuvialuit Regional Corporation
(867) 777-2828

World Wildlife Fund
(780) 459-9453

Sahtu Representative
(867) 589-3151

Government of the NWT (ENR)
(867) 920-8043

Government of Canada (INAC)
(867) 669-2647

Tłı̨cho Government
(867) 573-3109

Gwich'in Tribal Council
(867) 777-7913

North Slave Métis Alliance
(867) 873-6762, ext. 26

Dehcho First Nations
(867) 695-3250

NWT & Nunavut Chamber of Mines
(867) 873-5281

Canadian Parks & Wilderness Society NWT
(867) 873-9893, ext. 24

Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers
(403) 278-8935

Akaitcho Territory
(867) 370-3217

All of the agencies listed here have contributed to this publication. Our goal is to provide a single, annual publication of interest to everyone following new northern natural and cultural heritage conservation issues in a convenient and economical medium. Your comments are welcome, addressed to the Editor at the National Parks, National Historic Sites and National Marine Conservations Areas address above.